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EVIDENCE.

PRESENT:

MR. E. T. STUBBS (*Chairman*), and MR. BOLTMAN.

Examined: Mr. CHARLES APTHORPE WHEELWRIGHT.

By the Chairman.] I am Chief Native Commissioner for Natal. Before that I was Magistrate Native Commissioner for Pietersburg. And I was also Magistrate Native Commissioner for the Zoutpansberg District before it was divided. I filled that post from June, 1903, to March, 1916.

I recommended certain areas as native areas to the Beaumont Commission. I was chiefly guided by the considerable experience I have had of these areas, and the number of years I spent there.

The native population of Zoutpansberg is considerable, being about 350,000. The European population is about 10,000 or 11,000. The farming population of Zoutpansberg would be about 8,000.

These areas have not been totally accepted by the Beaumont Commission. Areas 2 and 3 have been seriously modified. I recommended the inclusion of some of the area lying between the eastern boundary and the border of the Zoutpansberg. I included eventually the modification of Area 2, as indicated on the map, up to the point above Malietzi's Location. Area No. 2, then the inclusion of Area No. 3, and the following farms:—The line following the western boundary, Nooitgedacht, Luttigsdale, Vulkanis, Venus, Juni, following the north-eastern boundary, including Zaaiplaats, Mashashan, and Doornfontein No. 1652.

In marking Area No. 7 on portion 7, which is described by Molips River, the small stretch of land lying between Area No. 2 was included in the European area because they were largely occupied by Europeans, where wheat growing is gone in for extensively, and where the land is irrigable, the whole of this area marked No. 2 on my District Map has been excluded by the Beaumont Commission. There are not many natives living in this area. I see no reason why this area should be excluded, because it has such a natural boundary that divides the natives from the Europeans. I am still in favour of the inclusion of this eastern portion, leaving out the abovenamed strip of European occupied land on the Molips River.

A number of natives live down towards the south-east of the Molips area. It would be better suited to natives, because a large portion occupy part of the Lydenburg district, and also the Middelburg district, and in order to make it more compact this portion was recommended by me.

Whilst in Area No. 2 (on my map), I wish to emphasise the number of farms that were bought by the natives, south of Mpahleles Location, and that 19 farms have been acquired by natives. These farms were mostly bought communally, some individually. Most of these farms were bought during the Republican régime. The first were bought by cash payment, but difficulty arose over transfer, and were by the Government added to the location. Those that have been bought since bills passed, with payment over six months or so.

There has been some trouble about the payment of certain farms among the natives, and they have become hopelessly mixed and involved sometimes.

I see no reason why there should be danger, under certain conditions, in removing the restrictions placed upon the natives in the buying of land, in areas definitely fixed for natives. If they are given the use of the Land Bank the Government could get money from them, that is to say, treat them precisely as you treat the white settler. Their wants should be controlled by a board appointed for the purpose.

If the natives are compelled to pay the tax of £1 per annum the first year, £2 per annum the second, and £3 per annum the third year, I feel sure they would rather attempt to stop where they are and trust to luck rather than move away. The method used to move and control natives is the Squatters Law, and other methods are also used, such as the ordinary Civil Courts. Some of the natives are not satisfied, because they object to the Land Act on principle.

The population is about equally divided. About 50 per cent. of them live outside scheduled areas. About 25 per cent. of them would be rent-paying squatters.

The locations are capable of holding more natives, provided irrigation and closer settlement is gone in for. Cattle farming is very important. I would advise the natives to go in for united agricultural farming, because I do not think it would be possible for everyone to take up cattle farming. Natives of Pietersburg and Zoutpansberg districts are hard working, and in addition to this, it is the inherent desire of every native to possess stock of some kind.

About 2,000 farmers occupy the districts. The average number of native families, of the continuous labour class, a farmer should require, would be about ten families. The most popular class of labour amongst farmers at present would be the labour tenancy.

I also recommend Area No. 3 (my map).

Harmony Block has some of the finest land that I know of in the Transvaal, and few grow any tropical crop (the fever can be blotted out), and it is capable of being irrigated. About 60 per cent. of the Harmony Block is occupied by natives. The ground belongs to private companies. There are no Europeans living in that area. I do not suggest that natives should be excluded from that land merely because it is capable of irrigation. I am in favour of large compact areas, as they would be easier to manage if they were compact.

I have not studied the question of neutral areas, and do not know what the effect would be.

The Singwitzi Game Reserve. I do not agree with opinions that have been expressed that the Singwitzi Game Reserve is arid and useless. The rainfall is irregular, but in parts it carries some excellent ground. It is not by any means waterless. Water is short, but there is the whole course of the Mpongolo bounding it. There is water in parts of the Singwitzi, and in other parts water could be obtained by boring and damming. Proper and scientific cultivation is capable of producing good results from this area. It is all a matter of what development is put into the ground. As grazing veld it is hard to beat. Limited natives occupy the ground (or portion of it), and were evicted some years back because they poached game. I should say the rainfall in this area is not very different to that of the country east and west of the Blauwberg Range.

I think the scheme of offering Senthemula and Kothoma another area an excellent thing, and most emphatically recommend the scheme of removing them if possible, if they agree, and if suitable land can be obtained for them.

I know something of the country below that marked No. 5 on the map. The river flows through the year. There is water in the Tenda River in places.

In my recommendations I made it clear that we did not recommend land for those that had already been provided for.

It behoves the Government to make suitable and adequate provision for the natives, if any are to be moved from any existing location.

I think that the area recommended by me is not sufficient, and that provision must further be made, *i.e.*, for any existing locations taken away. The area that has been excluded from my original recommendation would be acceptable to those natives that have to be provided for, *i.e.*, those not already in existing locations. I know the area of Madaboks, Witfontein, on this area is a good farm, with plenty of water. The main location is valueless, and has never been occupied by the natives.

I do not know Steelport River.

I know the portion of the Waterberg district indicated. It is inclined to be sandy, and rather dry.

The Natal natives are very much against the Act. They object to that portion where their freedom to buy land is taken away. They say that the areas recommended are not of the best, and that they have been shifted from the ground where they have been living for many years.

The opinion of the educated native is not that of the masses on the veld, but it is the more widespread opinion.

Certain areas should be set aside near the towns where the natives could settle themselves. The industrial class of native often goes into the towns to seek work, and thus divorces himself entirely from his kraal life. Purely urban native areas should be provided near townships, in order to accommodate natives who come to town to work and live there. I think that such townships should be entirely governed by the conditions obtaining in that area. Certain locations of that nature have already been formed by the natives themselves, on which the natives squat, but these are not included in proposed native areas, nor are they safeguarded.

PRESENT:

MR. T. E. STUBBS, (*Chairman*), and MR. BOLTMAN.

Examined: MR. HUGH GRIFFITHS.

By the Chairman.] I am Sub-Native Commissioner of the district, since April, last year. Before that I was Sub-Native Commissioner for Lydenburg, and occupied that post for about 15 to 16 years.

I have submitted recommendations to the Beaumont Commission in the native area of my sub-district.

Most of the natives in that area live under the tribal conditions. They all live on farms and Government ground, but they all acknowledge their chiefs. There are no locations in that area at all. The names of the tribes are: Mapela, Zwazi, Shangaan, and Bapulan. The Bapulan preponderates. Practically all live together, but the Zwazis are more or less separated from the others. There is little difficulty, as long as tribal boundaries are observed, in the area recommended by me. The Zwazis have lived in this area for about fifty years, and the other about the same time, except the Shangaans, who have lived there since 1886.

There has been a tendency for natives to filter into my area, from the Portuguese territory. I have tried to put a stop to it.

There has been a considerable increase of natives from the surrounding areas, since I have been there.

I should say the area recommended by me would be about 2,000 square miles in extent. This extent is mostly low veld, until the Drakensberg is reached.

The red line on the map produced (Lydenburg map), shows the additional area recommended by me and Colonel Damant for inclusion in the native area to the Beaumont Commission. The reason that the additional area was included is because it is high veld in character, and for the purpose of accommodating natives who might be required to be moved from the high veld within my sub-district.

The area lying between the Olifant and the Klasseerie Rivers is very poorly watered. No natives are living within the poorly watered area except on the foothills of the Drakensberg, there are only a few families, who go in for agriculture in a very small way. There is no stock.

The Crown land is that marked with the cross, on the Sabie River. (My map).

South of the River Klasseerie, the country is fairly well watered, but practically the whole area recommended by me as a native area is poorly watered, except to the south. There are four or five small rivers between the Sabie and the Sand Rivers. They run the whole year through. Nearly all of these rivers can be irrigated, and about twenty per cent. of the whole can be irrigated.

The natives would not welcome an irrigation scheme. They are very conservative. There are about 3,000 or 4,000 natives within the area referred to.

More than half the natives are rent-paying-squatters, the rest are labour tenants.

About twenty Europeans occupy that area. There are about five or six Europeans living on the additional area known as Bushbuck Ridge. They go in for mealie growing, pine growing, and citrus growing in that locality. The soil is not suited to citrus growing in all portions, and cotton is experimented with on the other portion.

In the additional area recommended by me Bushbuck Ridge, the ground is worth about 15s. per morgen, and the other portion about 7s. 6d. per morgen. The natives living within that area are very poor in stock. They mostly go in for agriculture on a small scale, and dry land cultivation.

There is a chief living near Pilgrim's Rest. He belongs to the Bapulan Tribe. Kowijn is his name. He is on high veld and could be suitably provided for at Bushbuck Ridge. In settling natives in that area, I do not think that any scheme of tribal division will be necessary, as they are already living separately.

I think the natives within the area would rather pay the tax of £7 if they could manage it than move. They could pay by working in the mines, where they are paid £2 or £3 monthly. The natives would then have to work more or less continuously.

I cannot state definitely what the annual increase of the population is. The increase of 2,000 seems rather high. The country is malarious. The death rate is almost as high as the birth rate.

This could be improved upon very little by medical treatment with quinine. I do not anticipate any increase of natives. In ten years the population will not increase above 2,000.

I think that the area recommended by me to the Beaumont Commission will be sufficient for the population for the next ten years.

The farmers have great difficulty in getting labour tenants, for the natives are not satisfied with the conditions. They would rather buy land and be free.

Most of the farms in that area are agricultural.

I think that the natives in the area recommended by me will be more contentedly

settled if an irrigation scheme was carried out. I had no regard to an irrigation scheme when I recommended that area.

I think that area will be sufficient.

The natives would be prepared to pay the additional tax to moving. No promises have been made to them with regard to that.

I do not know why the Beaumont Commission included that area. The Sub-Native Commissioner's Station, Graskop, is not within that area. It would be possible to move the Native Affairs Station to a point within that area on the Bushbuck Ridge.

There is pretty strong opposition among the Europeans, because they say that Europeans can live there, and that it is healthy, it is undoubtedly good for natives.

Practically the whole of the area of my late sub-district is mining area, with the exception of the southern portion, in which a certain amount of farming takes place, largely agricultural in character.

Not more than 1,000 natives would be required as farm labourers. My object in including certain farms marked with the cross (on the map), in the Sabie Game Reserve, is that I wished to make provision for natives living outside the native area, who might be required to move as a result of subsequent legislation.

PRESENT:

MR. E. T. STUBBS, (*Chairman*), and MR. BOLTMAN.

Examined: Mr. DAVID WORTH HOOK.

By the Chairman.] I am at present Acting Sub-Native Commissioner of the southern portion of the Pretoria district. The district of Pretoria is divided into two areas, the Pretoria sub-district, and the Hammanskraal sub-district. I was Sub-Native Commissioner of Hammanskraal from 1902 to 1907. I am acquainted with the Hammanskraal district. I was Sub-Native Commissioner for the sub-district of Potgieters Rust from 1907 to January, 1917.

The approximate total native population of Potgieter's Rust is about 54,000. The scheduled native areas in this district are:—Bakeberg's Location, Markus Masibi's Location, Valtein Makapan Location, Zebediela's Location, Landsberg Hoek, and the two farms Beauty and Lily, occupied by Chief D. K. Selika and tribe.

The number of natives occupying native areas is about 34,000. The natives in the Waterberg district belong to the Mandebele Tribe. Those in Landsberg Hoek also belong to the Mandebele Tribe. The natives who occupy the scheduled native areas originally sprung from the Moselekatse Tribe, and are intermarried with the Basutos. They are all mostly of the same tribe.

It is not thought that there would be many difficulties among the natives, such as inter-tribal jealousies, in settlements made by the Commission. I have no reasons to alter recommendations in respect of Areas Nos. 1 and 2.

The number of the whole native population living within Area No. 2 is about 28,000, falling in the Potgieter's Rust sub-district. The population in Area No. 1 is about 1,500. In classifying the natives in Area No. 2, I should say that outside the original native locations the rent-paying squatters preponderate.

The north-western portion of Area No. 1 is owned and occupied by natives. The southern portion of No. 1 is not occupied at all, except for one or two European settlers. There are about 15 to 20 farms within Area No. 2 of the Potgieter's Rust district that are owned by Europeans. The majority of the farms in Area No. 2 are privately owned mostly by Companies. The natives pay £2 rent per annum. They pay on the poll basis, all the natives are under tribal system.

Part of Area No. 2 is very fertile, and a system of bore-holes would overcome the difficulties of water. It is very mountainous west of Area No. 2. That portion of the country just south-west and west of Area No. 2 is very mountainous and broken, and is very poor. The inclusion of this area was contemplated but the idea abandoned, because it was thought at the time that this area would be occupied for cattle-ranching, chiefly the new Belgium Block, which is comprised of about 60 farms. There are few Europeans living there. Those natives within the new Belgium Block are no longer rent-paying squatters, but are farm servants. I consider that the northern portion of Area No. 2 falling within the Waterberg district, is suitable and adequate for 20,000 natives. There is a large portion in Area No. 2 that is unoccupied by either Europeans or natives.

The number of European farmers in the sub-district of Potgieter's Rust, beneficially occupying farms, is about 200. The average number of native families that would be required on these farms would be about ten to fifteen families. The number of persons in each family would be, on the average, about five. I think that Area No. 2 would be adequate in providing for the natives, and I take into consideration the needs of the natives for the next ten years.

The class of farming that is gone in for in the northern portion portion of Waterberg is cattle-ranching, and in the southern portion, agriculture and cattle.

Both Areas No. 1 and 2 are malarious. The whole of the Potgieter's Rust is malarious. Area No. 2 is no more unhealthy than the southern portion of Potgieter's Rust district, there is not much difference in altitude between Area No. 2 and the non-native districts to the south. The difference in altitude would be about 200 or 300 feet. Area No. 1 is considerably lower in altitude.

The natives, although not so advanced as the Pretoria natives, are fairly well advanced. They cling to the tribal system, the success of which largely depends upon the individuality of the Chiefs; how they control and rule and keep the people together.

There are no portions in Area No. 1 suitable for closer settlement, but in Area No. 2 closer settlement could be adopted, provided the water difficulties were overcome. This could be done if wells and bore-holes were sunk.

The natives living within the area are very largely pastoral. There is no danger of overstocking or over-populating for some considerable time to come.

The areas set aside in the Potgieter's Rust district are acceptable as far as I know. I attribute the agitation among the natives to the size of the areas set aside for them, which they state are not large enough. But that will not be true of the Waterberg district.

There is a feeling amongst the European inhabitants of Potgieter's Rust that that portion of Makapan's Location in Area No. 2, adjoining the Potgieter's Rust town lands, should be thrown open for European settlement and the natives removed therefrom. I do not agree with this.

I think that a certain area lying to the south-west, south, and south-east of Area No. 2 might be declared neutral as difficulties might arise when the new Act is brought into operation. The extent of this area might be obtained from the Acting Sub-Native Commissioner at Potgieter's Rust.

The natives do not develop along the lines of individualism. Many natives would be prepared to return to live in tribal community.

I cannot give much information as to the conditions under which the natives live at industrial centres like Pretoria and Johannesburg, as I have only been here six months.

There is a tendency on the part of the natives living in rural places to gravitate to towns with their families. They are generally accommodated in locations near the town, like Maraba Stad, the Cape Location and Schoolplaats, where they pay 10s. per month to the municipality for rent. They cannot actually buy land. There are four surveyed native locations within the vicinity of Pretoria, namely:—Lady Selbourne, Riverside, Eersterust, and Eastwood. They are not all under municipal control, Lady Selbourne being the only one controlled by municipality. The others are all more or less grouped together. I think that the native town locations are very unsatisfactory indeed. I think that in large cities such as Johannesburg and Pretoria some provision might be made for the natives, and the suggestion of developing self-government in such provided locations is an excellent plan.

There is a tribe which is very scattered that I want to bring under the notice of the Committee. It is called the Mapoch Tribe, and it is at present on the farm Welgelegen No. 511. I think that some provision should be made for this tribe. The chief lives on this farm Welgelegen, with 200 or 300 followers. The balance of these followers are scattered all over the country, mostly in the Pretoria district. The chief has been offered other ground at a lower altitude, which he refused because it is climatically unsuitable. He certainly is justified in his refusal, as he used to live in the middle veld, which is higher than the ground which was offered recently. They left their land and were scattered during the Mapoch War. They originally came from Mapoch Gronden. There would be no legitimate objection, if provision was made for them in the Mapoch area, to his going back there, as far as climate is concerned.

Middelburg, 4th October, 2 p.m.

PRESENT:

Messrs. STUBBS (*Chairman*), BOLTMAN and OPPERMAN, the MAGISTRATE and a number of Natives.

The magistrate addressed the natives stating that owing to certain circumstances it would be a matter of impossibility for the Commission to sit that afternoon, but that the Commission wished to greet them according to their promise to meet them. The Committee would sit on the following day at 9.30.

By the Chairman.] This Committee has been appointed by the Government to go into questions of importance affecting the natives. We greet you. We asked your Native Commissioner to notify you that we would arrive here to-day, and that possibly

we would meet you here this afternoon. But, unfortunately, owing to difficulties of getting here in good time this morning we are unable to do so. That is to say, we arrived here this morning in good time, but we had such a very bad journey from Paledis Kraal, that we do not feel that it would be right to hear you without giving you plenty of time in which to make your representations. We are here, as I said just now, in connection with the question of setting aside areas which will be native areas and non-native areas, and I am very pleased to see that you take such an interest in this most important question by coming here to-day to meet this Committee. We wish to hear all sections of the population of Middelburg, and other parts of the Transvaal on this important question, because it affects the native just as vitally as it does white people. It is General Botha's wish that you should be given opportunity to come forward and tell us what is in your minds with reference to this important question. You probably know that in some parts of the Transvaal there is the influence of a certain so-called native public opinion. Some of the natives wish to protest against this Bill becoming law and do not wish to give any evidence whatever. Now, I say that attitude is wholly wrong, because if you natives allow your case to go by default you cannot afterwards be heard to say that you have not been given the opportunity of presenting your case. This legislation is just as much in your interest as in that of the white people. Therefore, as I said, we are very pleased that your Native Commissioner has made an effort to get you to come forward and say what you have to say about this question. We greet you and thank you for having come to meet us this afternoon.

The meeting then adjourned.

Middelburg, 5th October, at 10 a.m.

PRESENT:

Messrs. STUBBS (*Chairman*) and OPPERMAN.

HERBERT GEORGE MORTIMER: Examined by Chairman.

I am an attorney practising in Middelburg. I have been in this district for 15 years, and have a fairly wide knowledge of local conditions. I have not gone into the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission and I am not prepared to offer any opinion as to the suitability of native areas. I wish merely to speak about the farm Doornkop No. 42.

Doornkop is about 10 miles north of Middelburg.

[The witness then proceeded to give an account of a dispute among certain natives on the farm Doornkop No. 42—arising out of religious jealousies—a question not falling within the purview of the Committee. He then proceeded.]

With regard to the conditions of occupation by natives in this neighbourhood, in most cases natives have to work and give their labour for three months. Farms are short of labour of this class. The native wants to be his own master. Labour tenancy is not popular. There are not many native rent-paying squatters. The class of farming here is general or mixed farming, principally mealies and cattle—and wheat in the bushveldt, that is in the Olifants River valley. There are only two mines in our immediate neighbourhood. The natives very seldom work on these mines. They prefer the Premier mine. Some work at the Gold Mines. The natives living in the neighbourhood of Middelburg originally came from the low veldt. They have lived here around Middelburg since 1865, having come from Secocoeniland. There is no tendency on the part of the natives when evicted to return to the low country. If they were given the same opportunities of development there, they would still object to move.

By Commandant Opperman.] There are many natives who even under improved conditions of existence in locations will not live there. They prefer to live under the protection of the white man. They say they have no protection under their Chiefs. In the white man's country they are free of their Chiefs.

By the Chairman.] I have a native working for me who comes from Secocoeniland and he has got to go home occasionally, but he always comes back. He does not like the old life. He won't settle down to location life.

(The *Chairman* then addressed a number of natives present and asked them to choose several of their number to represent their views. The evidence of the following representatives so chosen was then taken).

NATANA MATUMESI: Examined by Chairman.

A Bapedi. My Chief is Seth, who lives on Doornkop 42. I live on Toevlugt, on mission land. I am a teacher. I have lived on Toevlugt all my life. I have seen the map. I don't understand it. I want to know when the separation is to take place and when the natives must go on to this ground which is allocated to them as a location?

The *Chairman* explained. He said: "The Bill contemplates eight classes of natives who may be living outside the native areas among the white people. The first is the native who hires land. The second is the native who works for a master and gets land to plough and where his cattle may graze. The third is the native who works for a master from month to month and gets payment therefor. Under this proposed law, so far as the native who hires land is concerned, his landlord will have to pay a tax of £1 for the first year, £2 for the second year, and £3 for the third year. In addition to this he will require rent, say, £2 per year, and there is the poll tax of £2—altogether £7 a year. If the native cannot pay this sum, it may be the master will say: "you must move or you must work." If the native refuses to work he can go to the native area and get ground upon which to live. But if he can agree to work for the owner of the farm he can remain there as long as he wants.

(The *Chairman* here fully set out the other classes of natives who might find themselves in non-native areas).

NATANA: There are many of us who cannot understand the law. Many of us are away in Europe. The matter is not clear to us. The law ought to be postponed until after the war.

The Chairman.] The opinion you have now given is the opinion of certain natives who are a little educated and you think you have said a good thing. What are you going to do when they do come back from Europe? How will it help to postpone the law until then? If you have a certain place where you can live or hire ground the white man cannot evict you. It is curious to me that you are so afraid of getting a chance of settling permanently on your own land.

NATANA: The law is too severe. I have seen the map. I think the natives' land is not healthy. I do not think Pokwani ought to be excluded from the native area.

Commandant Opperman.] You don't understand the law. The natives on my farm may remain there if they wish to work. But those who don't want to work and settle there have a place where they can live.

ELIAS MASHIPULE: This witness complained that the Government had promised that the tax receipts should serve as passes and had not kept its word. He concluded: "We shall be very grateful if the Government would increase the native areas and have due regard to the rapidly increasing numbers of the native people."

MATTHEBAS RAPETHLU: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Toevlugt. My tribe is Makopa. They live at Toevlugt. They came from Maleeuwskop. I don't understand what the Government wants. It is not clear whether Europeans' farms fall into the proposed native areas. (The *Chairman*: There are some such farms). Will the owners of these farms agree to the natives living on these farms? (The *Chairman*: They must arrange that with the owners. The Government will permit it if you can arrange it with the owners. The Government may, if necessary, even buy the farms).

I was born on the high veld and want to live there. If the Government says we must go then we must go. (The *Chairman* explained as to a former witness). I think the plan is quite just if we can't pay rent or work. Still, if there is a white man who wants to sell a farm wherever it is, we should like to have the right to buy it.

JOSEPH MUZILA: Examined by Chairman.

I live in the location at Middelburg. I am a Basuto. My Chief is Griffith. I have been here two years, was formerly in the Free State. I am a teacher of the Dutch Reformed Church. I have seen the map and want to know whether there are native areas assigned for the Transvaal only, or for the whole of the Union. I cannot express an opinion on the areas. I have not heard of this before. I should like to have my own land. I am unable to give an opinion.

KAPTEYN PAULUS: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Toevlugt, a Mission Station. I am a Makopo, and pay £2 a year rent. I plough and keep cattle. I plough about 12 acres and keep 30 head of cattle. I am quite satisfied with the present conditions. I cannot say for certain whether we are contented with the areas set aside for the natives. I do not know enough about them to say whether it is satisfactory or not.

(*Commandant Opperman* explained the intent and purpose of the Bill). I am quite satisfied with the conditions as you have explained them.

PAUL PHAMPIPE: Examined by Chairman.

I live in the location at Middelburg. Am a Basuto. I wish to make representations regarding the proposed areas. I am a teacher.

I have looked at the map. Although I don't know the country, I understand the map. I have shown the others the map but it is not clear to them. The matter is very difficult because all the natives do not see what they are shown. I think that if the matter had been dealt with otherwise the old people might have understood where they are to go. We prefer the present conditions.

I do not think the native area is sufficient.

JACOB MASUTO: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Msutu. My Chief is Maxrumo. I have heard that you have come to speak only of the ground. I know that we are all sick at this word. We see that there is no chance for us. According to the map there it is always land without water that is given to the natives. I don't know whether the man who made this map has been to Secocoeni-land. (The *Chairman*: We are going there). If you go there you will be sorry. You will see that there are a great many people, but here there are not many. You might think that there are more here than in the bush veld. There are many people in Secocoeni-land who have no land, and they are people with large families. We are surprised that the map does not show all the mountains and ridges. The Chiefs ought to know exactly in what way the ground is to be divided. The white men have divided the land without the natives knowing anything about it, and it is only a small portion that is given to the natives.

I cannot express an opinion as to the areas. I think the Chiefs ought to be called together. I think the area is too small. The right thing is for you to go to the natives' country. They will tell you what they want. You must not stick us away. We are afraid to talk to you until you have come back from that place.

The Chairman.] This Committee has given you a very fair hearing. We asked you this morning in order to facilitate the taking of evidence to nominate several of your people to state the views of the majority. That you have done, and these men have come forward, and have stated what is in their minds to some extent. They tell us, broadly speaking, that they object to the provisions of this Bill, they want to continue to live among the white people under the same conditions as now, and they have nothing to say with reference to the native areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission. We have explained the provisions of this proposed legislation very fully not only to one, but to every one of you, and the last witness but one addressed me in the Xosa tongue, and I replied to him in the same and I dealt very fully with the position. I have also explained the position clearly to all of you. When some of you say that you will go away and that you will not be able to tell your children anything, I can only come to one conclusion, that is that you have made up your minds beforehand not to understand the provisions of this Bill with regard to separate areas for whites and natives. The thing is perfectly simple. Certain areas are to be set aside for the residence of natives, and others for white people, and the rights in respect of the inhabitants of each of these areas are equal. That is, the white man living in the native area, will have the same restrictions placed upon him with regard to the hire and purchase of land as the natives will have placed upon them in the white area. There is one thing I have noticed to-day, which is of importance. It is this, that you have got it into your minds and I don't know how it has got there, that when this Bill becomes law you are suddenly to be uprooted from the white area and pushed into the native area. Let me say that that is a wholly wrong idea. As I have said before, I will repeat once more. The natives who are living outside as rent-paying natives can continue outside under the conditions provided they have their agreement registered within 6 months after this Bill becomes law. But, on the expiration of the period of time mentioned in the contract, you cannot again lease land in the white area, but can only go into the native area and lease or buy land there. The native who has got a verbal agreement with the owner of the farm to squat on the farm and pay rent, or whatever it may be, must also in the same time have his contract registered by the Magistrate, and at the end of one year, his lease expires. And if he does not wish to work for the white man either in the towns or on the farms he can go and lease land in his own territory. And what I want you to get into your heads is this, that you have got an open door. If you don't want to work for the white man, though I consider it necessary for all men to work, you can go and settle in your own country. Another thing to remember is this, that the white man who lives in the native area is treated in exactly the same way as you are treated. He cannot sell his land in the native area to another white man without the express consent of the Governor-General, but before that the Government may, if necessary, come and buy the land for you natives. And that white man cannot lease his ground in the native area to another white man. He can only lease it to a native, so that the white man is in exactly the same position as you are. And if you tell me that you don't understand it, all I can say is that you won't understand it, and if I stayed here for weeks you would not understand it. But you do understand it, and I am certain that if you think over mine and Commandant Opperman's words you will realise that this legislation is just as much in your interest as in that of the white man. We wish you good-bye. We hope that you will go to your homes giving serious thought to

the words spoken by myself and Commandant Opperman. I am sorry that the other member of the Committee has been too ill to be present, but we will convey to him what you have said. I greet you, and hope that you will be happy. If there are any of you who wish to send any of your representatives to Pokwani to hear what the Chiefs have to say we shall be very glad to meet you. We hold our meeting there with the native chiefs on Tuesday. And I think you will be surprised to hear these men speak out like men. I know that the natives who live on the veld who really feel this matter very much will come forward to the Committee and say "This is our case. This is what we want." And we will appreciate that attitude, because it is the right attitude, telling us what is in their hearts. That is what we want to know, and that is why I should like you to send a few representatives to Pokwani on Tuesday.

D'ARCY LANCELOT KROGH: Examined by Chairman.

I am at present Acting Assistant Magistrate at Middelburg. I have held that position about 18 months. I have been in this district ten years. I know the conditions of the district fairly well. I have heard you asking some of these natives about Mapochs Grond, and I should just like to explain the position there as to occupation. Mapochs is cut up into something like two or three hundred perceels. It is divided into wards, each of which appoints a member of a council, which makes regulations as to wood-cutting, water, etc. The European population is about 1,600, 75 per cent. of whom have titles. The ground not privately owned belongs to the Government. Possibly you may wish to recommend its inclusion in the native area. Each owner has grazing rights over the remainder. Each perceel is about 12 morgen. Practically the whole is cultivable. Most of it is irrigable. The land is used, I think, to its fullest extent on the whole. The occupants are a poor type. All the perceels are supplied with implements. No assistance has been given the owners by the Government recently. The average value is £100 per perceel. Outside Mapochs the area to the west is solely occupied by natives, and there is a continuation of native occupation up north, to where it joins the proposed Area No. 7. Of the farms marked white (on the wall-map) very few are occupied. Europeans are very sparse indeed. The ground in the Olifants River Valley is very fertile. There is a chance of irrigation. There is a scheme at present. I do not see why the area should not include Pokwani and the area (two farms deep), south of Area No. 7. If that is included I think the area would be quite sufficient for the present. It is difficult to say whether it will be sufficient for the next ten years. I think that if the line were taken as suggested by me it would be sufficient for the next ten years. All the farms in the native area are not fully occupied. The soil is poor and sandy in many parts. I think the two farms to the north of that portion of Area 17, which falls in the Middelburg district, should be included. I think that the farm Eenzaam should fall into Area 7. There are very few farmers to the north-west of Mapochs. There are very few white people occupying that land who have vested interests. Other than people who move in with their stock for winter grazing you have very few people who have beneficial occupation. There is no fixed residential quantity in that area. South of Pokwani there are many progressive farmers. Vitkijk, Leeuwkraal and Roodepoort should fall into Area 17 in my opinion. Where there are farmers living among natives I think expropriation would be best. I think he would have no grievance if he got a price agreed upon, or if he received a valuation plus one-half. With regard to the two farms to the north of Area 17 on the Olifants River, there is an irrigation scheme there, and perhaps they should not be included. The scheme might fall through if they were included. The natives would not avail themselves so much as the white men of irrigation schemes. I don't know that there are natives in the Cape who take every advantage of such schemes.

CORNELIS PIETER ALLAART: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Middelburg. I am a Justice of the Peace, and before the war I was clerk to the Native Commissioner for about ten years. The Chairman of the South African and Nationalist Parties have asked me to give evidence. According to the Beaumont Report the natives are awarded 48 farms in the northern part of the district, and 6 in the southern. Formerly they had about ten farms or locations, viz., Rietkloof 509, Brakfontein 175, Rietfontein 535, Hooggelegen 346, Vergelegen 365, Mooifontein 366, Nebo, Ramsomulo, Magalie, de Oude Stad 238, and Lekkerland 213. Now they are to receive 11 farms in addition. I think, with an eye to the labour question, that too much land can be given to the natives. This causes a shortage of labour. The natives should be treated like children who do not understand their own interests. It is to their interest and the interest of the country generally that they should work, and they must be made to become as useful as possible to themselves and to the country. In my opinion the ground recommended by the Commission is too large, much too large. It is a wrong policy to grant more land to the natives. It gives inducement to them to live in their own territory without working for white men. With regard to the Olifants River Valley, I think that if this ground, which is for the most part irrigable, is given to the natives the result will be that the Government will not go on with the proposed irrigation scheme. Such a scheme would

cost thousands of pounds, and the Government would be obliged to reimburse itself by fixing a rental for each portion brought under irrigation. Such a rental natives would not be able to pay. Ground brought under irrigation should be given to white people. This would help to solve the poor white question. We propose that the following nine farms should be withdrawn from the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission, viz., Vogelstruiskopje 301, Daataan 276, de Paart 291, Nooitgezien 261, Goedverwacht 230, Veeplaats 220, Kameeldoorn 66, Kalktontein 61, and Rhenosterkop 566, and that in their stead the following nine farms to the south of the area be included, viz., Weltevreden 359, Vlakspruit 560, Koppiedam 949, Buffelsfontein 381, Driekopjes 580, Goedehoop 382, Kipspruit 347, Goedgenacht 379, and Goedehoop 376. If the natives must have ground which can be brought under irrigation, then if they occupy the five farms on the northern boundary of the district, viz., Wonderboom 201, Vlakplaats 107, Haakdoorndraai 41, Strijdkraal 369, and Mooiplaats 368, they will have quite sufficient. In this proposed amended native area Moontontein 366 is an excellent farm, Koornkopje 345 has two good springs, Hooggelegen 364, and Bothaspruit 160 have very good springs. Loopspruit runs right through the middle of the area. Pokwani's people could be accommodated in Oude Stad 566, and if that is not sufficient another farm could be given them. Secocoeniland is very suitable for cattle farming. Many farmers go there for the winter grazing, and in summer sheep answer well. I do not think that "trekking" will diminish much in the future. Corn and tropical fruits can be produced largely in the Olifant's River Valley. Natives seldom make any use of irrigation. Progressive natives are very rare. I think each district should bear its own burden, and should not be obliged to grant areas to accommodate natives of other districts.

With regard to the placing of natives on the high veld I think it is the worst thing that could be done, a most disastrous thing for natives and white people alike. It will be more difficult than ever to get labour.

I accept the principle of territorial separation, because it has been passed by Parliament. If too large areas are given to the natives the Bill will not be a success. It will attract large numbers of natives away, and cause a scarcity of labour. It is not true that we would like to use the Bill to bring about servile labour, except in the sense that children are also slaves when controlled by their parents until majority. I think the natives should be granted only a small area. Afterwards, if necessary, a larger area can be given them. (*Chairman*: There can be little chance of increasing the area afterwards). If the white people keep the ground near the Olifants River there will be more opportunities for the natives to work, and this is good for them.

By Commandant Opperman.] I think that when the Bill becomes law many of the natives will go to the reserve, for the most part natives who hire land, but many servants will go too. Natives who do not care to work as servants will go.

By Mr. Boltman.] The reason why natives did not formerly go to their own locations is that they did not care to live under a Chief.

By the Chairman.] There may be approximately 50,000 natives in this district, and it may be that only 20,000 live in the scheduled areas. I am not prepared to say how the other 30,000 should be provided for, but in any case if 20,000 were formerly accommodated on 10 farms it is not necessary to give the other 30,000 44 farms.

There are portions of the area which are very poor, but there is a large extent which can be brought under cultivation. The report that the farms are congested and poor is not applicable to the whole area.

The disadvantage of having a farm which falls in the native area is that you cannot sell it except to natives. I don't think a farm falling in the native area would appreciate in value.

JOUBERT: Examined by Chairman.

I am an Attorney, and have been resident in Middelburg since 1905. I am Chairman of the local branch of the South African Party. I have been in contact with public opinion in this district, and the current opinion is that the great future of the district lies in the north, and people feel strongly that this large portion of the north should be left undisturbed for expansion. We have petitioned Parliament for many years to extend the railway from Bethal to Pietersburg, so that the northern portion of the district might be opened up, and we have arrived at the stage of obtaining a survey of the proposed line. We still live in hopes that when the war is over the railway will be built. Now it is well known that there are large irrigation schemes contemplated near the Olifants River. And this scheme is ready to be carried into execution. It only remains for the Government to build the railway. It is a well known fact, too, which is recognised by Ministers who have been here that Middelburg is a sort of promised land. It is extremely fertile and capable of producing every sort of product. There is a great future for Middelburg. Iron, tin and copper abound, and when the railway is built I am certain much will be done in this direction. Must we close such a promising proposition to the white people of South Africa? This water scheme ought to be preserved for the white population. If the block of five farms to the north of the district recommended by Mr. Allaart is left to the natives this will give them a large portion of the land involved in the scheme.

It is impossible for me to judge to what extent this is enough for the native population. If the whole of the land involved in the scheme falls into the native area then the whole future of Middelburg will be compromised.

The Chairman.] Do you see any objection to the inclusion of the whole of the Secocoeni Ward if you get all the farms lying along the river? Yes, I should still object.

By the Chairman.] Do you not think it is a reasonable compensation? I think it is too much. If the natives can get ground in neighbouring districts it should be given them there, so that we can retain our prospects. We object to the inclusion of the whole of the Secocoeni Ward.

By Commandant Opperman.] If sacrifices must be made we must bear our share, but we protest against being cut off from the north for the sake (say) of Pretoria.

D. P. J. GROBLER: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and have lived 30 years in the district. I am Chairman of the local branch of the Nationalist Party. I agree with both Mr. Allaart and Mr. Joubert. We plead for the ground along the Olifants River to be preserved for the whites. It will provide for the immigration expected after the war.

A native does not avail himself of irrigation.

Pokwani, 9th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

Messrs. STUBBS (*Chairman*), BOLTMAN and OPPERMAN.

CHRISTIAN ERNEST SCHUTTE: Examined by Chairman.

I live on Rietfontein 451, and am a sheep inspector. I am secretary of a local committee formed to make representations on the subject of native areas. With an eye to the proposed irrigation schemes on the Olifants River we wish to amend the area proposed by the Beaumont Commission. When we gave evidence before the Beaumont Commission we were not aware of the irrigation schemes. The amendment we wish to make is from the Beaumont line at Frischgewaagd 373, so as to include Klipspruit No. 377, Goedehoop 382, Buffelsfontein 381, Vlakspruit 360, Weltevreden 359, Eenkantaan 351, Derdemaal 299, Vogelenzang 271, Nooitverwacht 253, Verplaats 220, Wonderboom 201, Vlakplaats 107, Haakdoorndraai 41, Strijdkraal 569, and Mooiplaats 568. Our object is to retain in the white area the farms from Vogelstruiskopje No. 307, to Goedverwacht 230, bordering on the Olifants River. This leaves the natives several farms bordering on the river which are capable of being brought under irrigation. We leave out Goedgedacht because it forms an awkward corner. We ask for a few farms along the river and we give in exchange more farms south of the Beaumont area. Natives do not make use of irrigation. A proof is to be seen on one of the farms in the area—Mooifontein Sequati's location. It has excellent water, but no use is made of it. There is water on Goedehoop, Weltevreden, Buffelsfontein, Klipspruit, and Goedegedacht, all falling in our proposed native area. There are natives on these farms which belong, for the most part, to white people. Of the six farms bordering the river none are occupied. They belong to white people. If the Committee thinks the area allotted to the natives is too restricted, it must not be forgotten that the natives may come outside among the whites and that they are not bound to remain in their area. What will become, however, of the whites if their area is found to be too small? I cannot say what proportion of the natives live outside the Beaumont Commission area. There may be 25,000. Such natives are, for the most part, servants. Very few are squatters under old contracts. I want to emphasise one point, that it is our lawful property which we are asked to give to the natives, and these natives have to thank President Kruger for their very existence. We are not unwilling to meet them, so we have given them these farms along the Olifants River in the northen part of the area. I would rather go away altogether than live among the natives. It is my opinion that the best plan is that the whole native area in the Transvaal should be compact and in one, but only if it were to the advantage of the whites. I should like to express my regret on one point. When the Beaumont Commission came we were prepared. We have only recently heard of this Committee. I don't say that the Native Commissioner is only for the natives. We have not been able to get together all the evidence that we might otherwise have done.

I should like to return to what I said just now about water. There are very fine manure kraals in the neighbourhood (both inside and outside the area). The natives never use the manure. It is a proof that they do not know how to make use of the land. There are very fine streams in the area and yet it is said that the natives cannot exist there. If the manure were used on the land, the land could be made productive for many years more.

This ward is not an unimportant one. When the ministers were here they said they had never realised how important it was. Another proof is that in 1904 there were about 25 families on the berg, in 1914, 70; in 1917, 129. The total number of souls was about 125 in 1904, 282 in 1914, and 525 in 1917. In these few years the whites have increased considerably. This is not taking into consideration the thousands of sheep; 200,000 sheep come into the ward from time to time, with thousands of cattle and hundreds of horses. These come from Bethal, Ermelo, Standerton, and Lydenburg. The owners of this stock don't live here. They come for the winter grazing. There are numbers here who are not owners. They hire land.

I am a valuator. I value most of the ground here at the present time at 60s. Not very long ago it was 7s. 6d. and 10s. This is due to the influx of more developed people.

Another object we have in view is to connect up with Springbokvlakte.

Since the Beaumont Commission Report some of the farms marked green on the map (*i.e.*, solely occupied by natives), have been occupied by whites.

I want to add that there are very fine streams on the farms which we have recommended should fall into the native area, *e.g.*, Buffelsfontein, Driekopjes, and Goedehoop. We don't want to do the natives an injustice, so we give them those farms.

Pokwani's Kraal lies right on the top corner of Rietfontein. We want to cut off that corner and include it in the area together with Ontevreden, leaving the rest of the farms Rietfontein and Nebo within the European area. There are 525 white people in Secocoeni's Ward. I don't know how many farms they occupy. There would be, say, 100 heads of families. There are three shop-keepers. I don't know how many of the hundred own their own farms. I don't know of any who occupy Government farms. They are mostly owners. They go in mostly for mixed farming. The value of land on the average is not less than from 25s. to 30s., whether there is water or not. The average altitude varies from 5,000 to 3,000. I don't know what the altitude is on the Olifants River. The majority of natives live below.

We wanted a township on Nebo, on the southern portion. There is water on Nebo, also on Rietfontein, about the same strength.

I am in favour of the inclusion of Pokwani location in the native area if we can get Nebo.

I wanted to say something of our future. What will become of us if we give away any more of our area?

PHILIPPUS JOHANNES v. d. MERWE: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Gemsbokspruit 469, and am a Justice of the Peace. I have lived here about 25 years. I want to say that I agree with the line proposed by Mr. Schutte, except as regards Klipspruit, which should not fall within the native area. It is occupied at the present time by white people. The other farms excepting Morgenzon are not occupied by white people. My view is that the line should be so fixed that no white people should be living in the native area. I can give the Committee the assurance that more of the natives in the European area will go into the native area. If the line as proposed by us is fixed by the Government, I am sure there will be an existence for the natives in the future if only they will learn to make proper use of the ground. At present the native makes ill-use of the ground. Almost the whole of Rietfontein is one old land, but there is enough manure to fertilise it. Natives plough first on one land, then on another. They never fertilise. Natives are doing well under existing conditions. Their area should last for many years in the future.

The water scheme, it is true, was mooted before 1906, but we knew nothing of it. The water scheme should help to solve the poor white question. According to the Beaumont line only a few irrigable farms fell into the European area. Most of them fell into the native area. We should be doing a great wrong to our descendants if we gave the valuable land on the Olifants River to the natives. The land will be worth millions and should be retained for the white people. We are prepared to give the natives land in which they can take advantage of the water schemes. I speak, on behalf of the districts of Ermelo and Bethal and other districts, as well as of this district.

We shall feel obliged to make a strong protest against any attempt to deprive the whites of the land bordering on the river. Klipspruit is surrounded by natives. This being so, I withdraw what I have said about excluding Klipspruit from our proposed native area.

I am sure that the natives have quite sufficient water in their area. They do not use the water from the Olifants River. All the farms in the area have springs. There are splendid opportunities for making dams. There are not many farmers in the native area. Most of the ground in the native area belongs to companies.

By Commandant Opperman.] It is better to have fountains on a farm than a spruit. Fountains are more enduring.

By the Chairman.] I am in favour of Neutral Areas, but not here in the Secocoeni Ward. It is not necessary. The natives go in for mixed farming. I am of opinion that more natives can be placed in the Beaumont Area. There is sufficient land for ten years.

It is possible for 100 natives to live on one farm if they fertilise. They can have irrigation schemes. There are opportunities on Mooifontein. The five farms on the area bordering the Olifants can be placed under irrigation. No scheme has been proposed with regard to Mooifontein.

FREDRICH CARL MEISSNER: Examined by Chairman.

I live in Pokwani on Vitkijk on my own property. Klipspruit 377 belongs to me. My wife lives there. I have had it about two years. I bought it from a company for £1,500. There is lots of water—a spring and a spruit. I sow mealies there. I have no irrigation works. The house is an iron one and cost me £50. It has 4 rooms. I protest against the inclusion of Klipspruit in the native area. It adjoins the best farm in the ward—Goedgedacht. It is used in the winter for grazing. There are not many natives on the farm. There are no natives on Klipspruit. I have paid for the farm, which is more than 2,000 morgen in extent. My portion of Vitkijk is 297 morgen. Three white families are living on my portion. I let a portion of my farm to the Premier Mine. I do not see the necessity for including Klipspruit in the native area.

OCKERT TOBIAS VAN NIEKERK: Examined by Chairman.

I live on Vleeschboom No. 467. I agree with what the other witnesses have said. I agree that the natives should be provided for. I think that if the natives work their land as well as I do mine that the proposed native area is quite sufficient for the next ten years. The Government should make the natives learn to farm properly. They ought to be forced to work. If you gave them the whole of the Union it would not be sufficient according to their present methods. If they farm properly they have sufficient ground for 30 years. There is plenty of water. The fountains are as good in the area as anywhere in the ward.

We will protest very strongly against any extension of the native area over and above what we have proposed here to-day.

I prefer to hire a native as a servant to letting him have land.

JAMES HERBERT KUHLMANN: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Morgenzon No. 422. I am farming and carrying on business as a labour agent. I am owner of Morgenzon. I want to give evidence on behalf of Maserumo with regard to Ontevreden No. 434. The farm is owned by the African and European Investment Company, but I have an option of purchase. Maserumo wishes to buy this farm. The Deed of Sale has already been signed subject to the approval of the Government. I wish to urge the sale of the farm to the natives. The price is £2 per morgen, the purchase communal. The payment spread over a term of years. It is intended to try and persuade the Government to levy a tax on each tax-payer. The object of Maserumo is to get Ontevreden, together with Rietfontein and Nebo, included in the native area in order to make it one block. I reported this matter to the Native Affairs Department. The Department has raised no objection to this proposed sale so far as I know. The farm is occupied by a few natives at present. They draw practically all their water from the farm. It it not correct to say that Rietfontein is well supplied with water. Practically the whole of the natives' water supply is drawn from Ontevreden. I think that Pokwani and Nebo should be included in the native area in order to make it more compact and because Rietfontein and Nebo are already locations. There are about 7,149 of Maserumo's people. The number actually living in the location is about 4,000, the remainder living round about in close proximity.

I think that when the Bill becomes law most of the natives living outside the area will go into the native area. I think the inclusion of the Pokwani Location in the native area would make things very much easier for the natives. The chief and the whole of his following are very anxious to acquire Ontevreden. It has been suggested by members of the European community that if the natives should consent to hand over Nebo for the purposes of a European township, then Ontevreden and the northern portion of Rietfontein should be given in exchange. I am not in favour of that. It would be unfair for the natives to be deprived of Nebo. I have been here 8 years, and I am sure the natives are very much opposed to these farms (Nebo, Rietfontein and Ontevreden), falling outside the native area.

By Mr. Boltman.] I know the farm Vitkijk. I do not think it would be reasonable compensation for Nebo. It is more valuable than Nebo. I value Nebo at 35s. It is a better farm than Ontevreden. I tried to buy a portion of Vitkijk and could not buy it for £3 a morgen. If the natives would agree to an exchange without paying anything in addition, it would be to their benefit. They are very attached to Nebo. I cannot see the necessity for a township at all.

By the Chairman.] There is nothing to keep a township going. There are about 100 white families living on the berg. That being so there is no justification for establishing a township.

There are no white occupants of Ontevreden. Frischgewaagd to the north of Ontevreden, Oudestad and Morgenzon adjoining it, all fall within the native area. The whole of the area surrounding Uitkijk is occupied by natives. There are a number of whites on Leeuwkraal. There are six white families on Uitkijk. They do not own the different portions. Three are lessees. Three portions of the six are owned by natives. One white man owns 600 morgen. Of the native portions two are owned tribally, and one individually. About 55 per cent. is owned by whites. The western portion which adjoins Riettontein, and the eastern portion which adjoins my farm Morgenzon, are owned by natives. There is only a strip between these two which is owned by Europeans. With reference to the six farms on the banks of the Olifants which it is proposed to reserve for the whites, I think it would be to the disadvantage of the natives to exclude these from their area. There are times when you ride in the area for hours without getting water. The natives are dependent on the Olifants. It is not correct to say that there is a fairly plentiful water supply in the native area. There is a spruit running through the area. I don't think it can be used to irrigate. Sequati's location might be irrigated At this time of the year there is only a six-inch flow in the spruit. The area defined by the Beaumont Commission is dependent entirely on the spruit and the Olifants River. There are a few farms which have fountains. But the spruit and the Olifants are the permanent sources of supply. I think that by cutting off these six farms and putting them into the white area there would be friction between the natives and the white people. The six farms on the river which it is proposed to give to the natives would be sufficient for Magahi's people. The river would be too far for anyone to the south of Magahi's location. There should be an outlet for the natives to the west. If the farms are excluded some rights of way should be reserved to the natives in order to water their stock. Natives do not use irrigation to any extent. A little is done on Mooifontein. Mochadi is doing something on Uitkijk. If they had instruction they would use irrigation. I know the country from Veeplaats to Mooiplaats. It is capable of irrigation. I should say that 60 per cent. of that portion could be brought under irrigation. About 40 per cent. is cultivable. I have some experience of dry-land farming among natives. To sustain a family of five on dry land I should say that the cultivation of 10 morgen is necessary. Under irrigation 2 morgen would be sufficient. Roughly speaking, all the Secoceni Ward is rich agriculturally. The soil is patchy. Very sandy in some places. You can only cultivate mealies for two years, without rooibloem, unless the soil is artificially fertilised. I exclude the alluvial soil along the rivers and spruits which retains its fertility. In the proposed native area I understand there are about 14,000 natives. I don't think the area is capable of carrying another 20,000. It is not capable of close settlement except along the Olifants River. The only areas which can be irrigated are those along the Olifants River. There are other areas which can be cultivated, but they would have to be fertilised to make them productive. There are not many Europeans living inside the native area at present – three families. Outside the proposed area and within the Secocoeni Ward there are about 97 families. They farm with mealies. They have been making money recently by selling mealies to natives. The farms falling outside the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission are practically all owned by white people, who are, for the most part, absentees. Quite a large proportion of the farms occupied by the 97 families are owned by absentees. About 70 per cent. of the occupied farms are owned by the occupants. There is not a great number of natives in the Ward living outside the native area. There is a good deal of company ground in the Ward. The area extending along the Berg from Paardekraal northwards is the portion chiefly occupied by whites.

SEQUATI: Examined by Chairman.

I am Chief of the Mopedi, and live on the Hooggelegen Location, in the Beaumont Area. I don't know the number of people living in my location. I know the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. The area is too small. I think the line should extend to Blinkwater including Rampuda's and Hlakudi's locations, and on the eastern side to the Steelpoort River, where it adjoins the Lydenburg district. That would satisfy my people and all the other natives so far as our present needs are concerned. The ground in my location is old and useless. The location is overcrowded. We get our water from the spruit, called Ingoaritsana. The spruit goes dry sometimes. Bothaspruit belongs to Martinas Botha. He does not occupy the farm. My natives plough on the farms adjoining the location. There are many of my natives living outside the native areas. Some pay rent, some work. When this Bill becomes law I cannot say whether those who pay rent will come to the locations.

NTSONG: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Bakoena, and Chief at Fort Webber, inside the Beaumont Area. Our children are still gone overseas. No one told me to tell you this. That is what we think. I do not know the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission.

MABOOE: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Mogales location. I belong to the Motau. We are originally from Swaziland. We have been here for twelve generations. Most of my people live on Buffelsfontein and other farms. Those living outside the area are mostly servants. They paid rent at one time. They are working for white people. They have to go to Ermelo to do service for these white owners. They don't like it. It is because they have no money. They prefer paying rent to doing service. The ground in my location consists of old lands. The location is full and most of the natives are scattered on the farms. The farms adjoining the location which border the Olifants River are good farms. If the water is brought on to those farms we should use it for the irrigation of our lands. I am not satisfied with the line recommended by the Beaumont Commission. It has cut us in half. We want the line to extend to Blinkwater as Sequati has recommended. Because many of my natives are living in that country. I cannot say how long my people have occupied the country south of the line. In my location we do not water our lands with furrows. There is no water. The spruit cannot be used for irrigation. There is only water when it rains. The spruit is not a permanent stream. My cattle water on the Olifants River. The farms near the river are occupied by natives.. They plough lands on the Olifants River. They cultivate lands also to the south of the location. There are no white people living there. If the six farms bordering the river to the west were cut off from the area. I should be not entirely satisfied even if another nine farms were given us in exchange.

By Commandant Opperman.] We prefer to live here. We cannot leave the graves of our forefathers.

By the Chairman.] I don't know that the natives came from the north originally and gradually worked along and settled in the low country where they are to-day. I have natives from Krokodilheuvel to Buffelsfontein.

MASERUMO: Examined by Chairman.

I am Chief of Pokwani location. I belong to the Mokone. We have occupied our location more than 30 years. It was granted to us by the Republican Government. I want to speak about the line. My location falls outside the line of the Beaumont Commission. I am not satisfied with that. I want the line to come further south. I want the line to go as far as Blinkwater as stated by Sequati. The reason is that there are so many natives. Many of my natives live south of the location. Half of my people live on farms outside the area. The location is too small. Of the farms in my location, Rietfontein is rocky. Nebo is the one which keeps us. The lands on Nebo are not capable of irrigation. There is only sufficient water for human consumption. I own a portion of Uitkijk two portions, one on the eastern and one on the western side. There is one native who owns a portion of Uitkijk individually Mochadi: who belongs to another tribe. It was I who asked the Government to be allowed to buy Ontevreden. I wish to buy it. I am willing to pay the price asked for it. My people are drawing all their water from there. There is enough water there for drinking. It is not cultivable. It is rocky. We shall be able to collect sufficient to pay for it but not cash. I want to buy it because it is close to me and is causing me trouble. Some of our graves are on that farm. Some of my people live in the direction of the Olifants River. They water their cattle on Enkeldoorn. Some live further west on Buffelsfontein. None of them water their cattle on the Olifants. We don't make any use of the Olifants River for our cattle. We would be satisfied if the farms along the Olifants were given to the white people. We are unable to live at Mplelile because it is unhealthy. We don't care for the farms along the Olifants. That is, speaking for myself. My people die of fever down at Mplelile. There are none of my people living away from the location on the high veld.

JAPTHA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Ndebele. I live on Grootkop. I was born in Mapochs and have lived there up to nine years ago, since when I have lived at Katfferkraal and Grootkop. I am acting for Feni and controlling his people in this area. My people are living on farms in Mapochs and in Selons River Ward, the majority in Mapochs. Some of my people are rent-payers, others are labour-tenants. Round about Blinkwater is where my father lived. And that is where we want to live. I would submit to Feni's rule if he returned here and welcome him back as Chief of the Ndebele, and for that reason I desire that the area described by me should be set aside for our people. The farms along the river are occupied by white people. I have ten wives. I pay £1 rent. My sons pay £2. The farm belongs to Henwood. There is a spruit running through the farm am living on. I should like myself to remain where I am, and for Feni to live in Mapochs by the old Hoofdstad.

MATHLOKO: Regent for Moljatji: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Loopspruit 328. I belong to the Motau. The two farms we occupy belong to the Berlin Mission Society. We pay rent, 15s. per head. These two farms are

not large enough for our people. Some of us cannot pay and we are troubled by the owners. We want a location so that we need not pay any rent. We should like to have this location where we are. Our people have scattered and come and go. We have natives working on Rustplaats, Hendortan, Buffelsfontein and Eensgevonden. I know the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. Most of my people are to the south of that line, living on farms belonging to white people. There are none living on companies' farms. I wish the line to go to Blinkwater, and from there past Rhenosterhoek including Hlakudi's location to where it adjoins the south-eastern point of Area 17. It would be sufficient for us alone. There are not many people living in that direction. Our people are bound where they live.

By Mr. Boltman.] Most of my people live outside the Beaumont Area. They live on private farms.

By the Chairman.] They don't pay rent. They work on the high veld for a portion of their time. Some work regularly on the high veld. Most of the white people who own the farms my people live on, live on the high veld. They bring their sheep to graze in the winter months. They do not cultivate the land.

MARAMAKOTI: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Hlakudi's location. I belong to the Bapedi. We have lived there since the time of the Republic. Most of my people live on the farms around the location. Some pay rent, and some give service. The farms belong mostly to companies. White people are using the farms too. They plough and sow wheat. There is a river there the Blood River. I know that my location has been cut out of the native area. I am not satisfied with that. I want all those farms round the location to fall into the Native Area. I want the Native Area to go from Blinkwater as described by Sequati. The lands in my location are very small. They are fairly good. There is no water on my location. The cattle are always dying because of the shortage of grazing and water.

MOKO: Examined by Chairman.

I belong to the Bakoena. I live at Rietkloof, Ramapuda's location. It was granted to my tribe by the Republican Government. Many of our people live outside the location. They are both squatters and labour tenants. I am not satisfied with the line. The area is too small. I want the line to extend towards Rhenosterkop and east towards Krantzpoort. We want the farms Kameeldoorn, Goedgedacht, Leeuwfontein, to be included also Blaauwbank, and all the farms along the Blood River.

LEKOKO: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Mooifontein Location, and am a headman. I belong to the Motau. I know the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. We are not satisfied. We want the line at Blinkwater. I have heard some of the Chiefs say that although they would be glad to have the line there they don't want this land. I don't agree with that. We want to have our own ground. The farms right down to Blinkwater used to belong to the natives, and we should be satisfied with that. I don't want the law of 1913, which gives us no rights at all to stand. That law has troubled us for many years. We want a law which will give us the right to buy ground. Half of my people are living in the location. The others live on the farms Goedehoop, Driekopjes, Buffelsfontein, Weltevreden, Dengdvlei, Vlakplaats, Korenkoppie, Eensgevonden. Some pay rent, some give service. The farms mostly belong to companies.

JOHN MOCHADI: Examined by Chairman.

I own portion of Uitkijk. I paid about a pound per morgen. My ground falls outside the Native Area. I want to ask one thing. Am I a white man or a black man. I should like to have the line at Blinkwater. There are very many more blacks than whites. We would be thankful if the Government would put us where we want.

SAUL MAKLOKWE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Head Induna to Sequati. We recommended the area up to Blinkwater before the last Commission, and we had no idea that the area was to be cut down as it has been. We thought the Government would hear our cry. We don't like to say anything this morning, because we thought that the first Commission would do as we asked. We ask the Government to let the matter alone until the boys come back from Europe.

Pokwani, 12th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

BRANSBY PHILIP DODD: Examined by Chairman.

I am Sub-Native Commissioner for portion of the Middelburg district, embracing the Secocoeni Ward, portion of the Selons River Ward, and Mapochs Ward. I have held the position for two years, and before that was acting S.N.C. for Sekuniland, in the district of Lydenburg. I am a South African. I speak the native languages, and practically all my life have been associated with natives. I have been in the Native Affairs for 15 years. With reference to the Beaumont Area, I think it is suitable, but inadequate. The northern portion of the area is low veld, particularly that adjoining Olifants River. Towards the centre of the area you get middle low veld. As you approach the south-eastern boundary it gradually becomes semi-high veld, with rocky formation. The low middle veld is fairly well-wooded. There is less wood in the south and south-eastern portions. The grazing is excellent in the low veld, also in parts of the middle veld, especially along the Olifants. There is some sour grass in parts. In bad seasons the natives are compelled to seek grazing outside the Beaumont Area. Around Mogalis Location you would see, if inspection were made there, that the grass has died out or has been tramped out. There is a very good grazing within 20 miles north of Pokwani, but beyond that there is nothing. In winter the cattle live on the prickly pear bush. This is due to over-stocking, and to a certain extent also in fact, more largely—to the nature of the soil. Unless we have good seasons, *i.e.*, better than the average, the matter becomes serious so far as stock-grazing is concerned. Within the Beaumont Area the natives have a large number of cattle both great and small. The natives go in for mixed farming. They cultivate a good deal—maize and kaffir corn to a very large extent. Wheat grows well in parts. There are four locations in the area. The locations are fully occupied. In all four of them the ground is becoming exhausted by repeated cultivation without fertilisation. I do not think these locations are capable of sustaining any further number of families. The natives have been forced to plough on the adjoining farms. In the Mogali's location for the last three or four years no crops have been reaped. This is due to drought. On farms some distance away—say ten miles—only a quarter crop was reaped last year, and the year before a half crop. In the location nothing was reaped. In Sequati's location most of the natives plough on adjoining farms called Vergelegen, and on other adjoining farms. Of the farms falling outside the locations, but within the Beaumont Area, none except Korenkoppie are occupied by their owners. Korenkoppie belongs to a company, but is leased by a Mr. Schroder for wheat growing. Morganzon within the area is leased by a Mr. Kuhlmann, with an option to purchase. He resides on the farm, and has been there for 12 months. Kuhlmann's biggest crop would be mealies. He is also growing forage and a little wheat. Most of the farms within the area belong to companies. With regard to the adequacy of the area, I don't think that sufficient provision has been made for the natives for the next ten years to come, if regard be had to the facts that the native population of my sub-district is 30,000, and that the locations are already filled to their utmost capacity. In my opinion most of the natives living outside the area would want to move into the area. Within the Beaumont Area there are already 14,000 natives. Of the 16,000 natives living outside the majority are rent-paying squatters. Very few are farm servants.

My sub-district runs from the south-eastern boundary of Area, 17, along, and including Leeuwfontein, Waterval, Hlakudi's location, Rhenosterhoek, Zwartkoppies, Blinkwater and Sterkloop, and includes the whole of Mapochs Ward. As to the number of European farms in my sub-district, but outside Beaumont Area, there are about 100 families in personal and beneficial occupation. They have improved themselves a great deal in the last few years. Up to a few years ago some of them were of the bijwoner class, and did not make full use of the ground. A number of them even to-day seem to make a living by hawking grain. In some cases they buy the grain, in others they grow it themselves. Maize is chiefly grown on the berg. There are 6 or 7 farms where you find patches of wheat, perhaps two or three morgen put on by more progressive farmers. Within my area I would regard the value of the improvements made on farms occupied by whites as averaging between £300 and £100, irrespective of the value of the land. Van Niekerk, on Vleeschboom, is an exceptional case of a farmer having progressed fairly rapidly within the time he has been here. It is not typical of the rest of the farmers in the ward. On the other hand, those farmers who have previously farmed on a very small scale and unprogressively, are making some progress, and are improving their holdings by throwing more lands under cultivation. Most of these farmers employ natives as

farm labourers. The conditions are three months' service in each year. The native gets in return full residence, grazing for his stock, and a piece of ground to cultivate. The farmers experience no difficulty in securing labour under these conditions. None of these farmers have rent-paying natives. Since the Land Act there have been none. The natives prefer to pay rent. In some cases the natives have left farms because the conditions did not suit them. The natives were told that if they left a company farm they could not go on to another one, and so had the option of going into a location or becoming a farm labourer. It compelled natives to stay where they were, and become farm labourers. But for the law natives would have preferred to be squatters. The altitude at this station is about 5,400 feet. That applies to most of the country on the berg. About 20 square miles in this locality is of that altitude. It is a high veld altitude. The soil is good outside the Beaumont Area, and a fairly large proportion of it can be placed under cultivation and irrigation. I value the ground along the berg outside the native area at about 25s. per morgen. To the west it would be something less. As you get down to the ridge overlooking the Olifants it is not more than ten shillings. The health conditions on the higher levels are very satisfactory. There is no malaria there. Malaria prevails chiefly in the Beaumont Area, and in the farms immediately south. It is the worse along the Olifants. The worst time is January, February and March. I have about four different native tribes in this sub-district. These tribes intermarry—except the Ndebele. They all really belong to the Bechuana race. The Ndebele keep to themselves, and live chiefly in Mapochs Ward, and to the west of it. They are a lowland tribe. I have heard of the projected irrigation scheme along the Olifants. It is difficult to say what the value would be of the farms to be placed under irrigation, but I should think at least £25 per morgen. I consider that the natives would be prejudiced if that area were eliminated from the proposed Native Area and included in the white area. I think that if the matter were put to the chiefs, and if it were explained to them how the water can be brought out, they would certainly take advantage of it. They would avail themselves of an irrigation scheme if they had instruction. I think that if that area were taken in, and if a Government official were put there, and the chiefs were told that this official would take them in hand it would result in a large number of natives taking advantage of the opportunity to cultivate. In such circumstances a system of closer settlement could be initiated. There would be health difficulties in any case. There are natives living in that region now. They plough on the banks of the Olifants. One morgen of land under irrigation would be capable of sustaining a native family of five. There would be difficulties in grazing stock unless there were a common grazing ground. I have heard it suggested that the farms along the Olifants within the Beaumont Area, which are capable of irrigation, should be included in the European area. The natives would have a grievance if this were done. They are entirely dependent on the Olifants to water their stock. If they are deprived of the six farms and given the other six to the north of Mogalies location there would not be sufficient access to the river for all the natives in the area. It would be impossible for the natives in the south of the area. I have heard it suggested by the deputation of white farmers that in exchange for the six farms they ask to be excluded, they named certain nine farms to the south of the Beaumont Area. I don't think it would be a fair exchange. I value the nine farms at about £1 per morgen. I have heard it suggested that the farm Nebo be excluded for the purposes of a township. The natives took exception to it on a previous occasion, when the deputation met the chiefs in regard to the matter. A school site was granted there by the natives to the Europeans in 1909. It was granted purely to meet the white inhabitants. It has been given as a reason for wanting this farm as a township that there is a Government school there. There is water on Nebo. I am not in favour of Nebo being proclaimed a township, because it is part of a scheduled area, and the natives would regard it as a breach of faith if they were deprived of it. I cannot understand why the Pokwani Location was excluded from the Beaumont Area. If you examine the map you will see that Ontevreden lies between the location and the area. The natives have been using Ontevreden for years for drinking water and for grazing. The people who represented the case to the Beaumont Commission must have known that it was quite simple to link up Ontevreden and the location with the native area. I have read the evidence of Mr. Schutte in regard to the location. It appeared to me that as the farm Witkijk was between the location and the Beaumont Area, and as white people were living on Witkijk, they felt the only way to get rid of the natives was to exclude the location. This location was given to the chiefs many years ago by the Republican Government, which brought them out from Maserumo's Oudestad and put them where they now are. The natives there live in a large hoofstad. There are good churches built in the location, and schools belonging to different denominations, also some well-built square houses. Naturally the natives are not willing to abandon the location. They hold that the land was given to them for all time. They have stated that it would be an injustice to get the Government to approve of a township. The chief and people plough almost exclusively on Nebo. Their crop of mealies comes entirely from Nebo. I think it would be an injustice to the natives to exclude Nebo or Rietfontein from the native area. I recom-

mend as a native area for this sub-district, having regard to the necessity for being liberal towards the natives, and to the fact that the demarcation will not afterwards be capable of amendment or extension, the whole of the present Secocoeni Ward. For the moment it might perhaps be excessive, but it is necessary, I think, in order to meet the needs of the natives for the next ten years. I think that the conditions along the berg approximate to the high veld, and the area recommended by me would make provision for natives dispossessed elsewhere on the high veld. If the whole ward is made a native area I don't think there would be any grave alteration in the conditions among white people living in the area. Farmers say the Government should place a time limit with regard to expropriation. They do not regard the provisions of the Act relating to expropriation as a favourable condition. They prefer to move rather than live in the native area. My point in excluding the Blood River Valley from the native area is that there are great irrigation possibilities there, and it should more properly fall within the European area. The Blood River is capable of irrigation schemes right away from Rooikraal to the Olifants. The schemes are perhaps not so good as those projected on the Olifants. The Blood River is very much healthier than the Olifants. There has been a survey, with a view to building a railway line through this area from Middelburg, passing through the Blood River Valley, and thence along the banks of the Olifants, crossing the river at Adriaansdraai, and thence to Pietersburg. The projected line would hug the Olifants on the right-hand side. The Beaumont Area in this district links up with the Waterberg Area at v. d. Merwe's Kraal. By eliminating the six farms proposed to be eliminated by the deputation you would be driving a wedge into Area 7. If all the farms on the Olifants were excluded you would be driving the wedge still further. The position would be that the Europeans holding these irrigated farms would be almost entirely surrounded by natives. I don't think that that is a satisfactory condition. I take it that the ideal is to have your native area compact, and not to have Europeans in this area. Compactness facilitates native administration and the administration of justice.

I have heard of the Native Chief Feni in the Pretoria district. He is living now on the farm Welgelegen, to the south of Pretoria, and has a considerable following in that district. I know that he has asked to return to his tribal ground in this district. I do not think there would be any objection from a political point of view if he were accommodated anywhere within the Secocoeni Ward, but not in Mapochsgrond or the Hoofstad of the tribe. The natives would not object provided there were no displacement of natives who have lived here for a considerable number of years. The natives already in occupation of Secocoeni Ward would not regard his coming in with any alarm. If it is acceptable to the Ndebele I think it desirable that he should return.

I am not in favour of neutral areas. It would prolong the agony. I consider that declaring a neutral area in the ward would only aggravate the settlement of this important question. The natives themselves would not welcome a neutral area. The great desire of the native to-day is some fixity of tenure.

There is a general impression that the native does not make use of irrigation. It is due largely to the fact that he does not feel secure. At Mooifontein there is a very good fountain. If the Government put up irrigation works, and the natives were asked to contribute they would do so willingly. The native is better off in a location than working for a farmer. He has greater freedom. There is this advantage about living on a farm: that he has individual tenure, but he is restricted as to stock. Farmers will not accept a native with much stock as a labour tenant. Most of the farmers have lived here for only a short time. In 1914 there were 70 farmers on the berg, in 1917 there are 120. European occupation is comparatively recent.

Our nearest railway point is Middelburg, 82 miles. Our rainfall is about 22 inches a year. The water supply on the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission, excluding the Olifants, is very meagre. A stream called Ingwaretsi runs through the native locations. It is fairly good in good seasons. The year before last I could not camp at the Ingwaretsi while on tax-tour, because the water was stagnant. I had to camp at Mooifontein. This year there is not much water in the spruit itself. We have had abnormal winter rains recently from May to August 4·78 inches. The water in the stream is now unusually high.

By Commandant Opperman.] If the irrigation schemes were controlled by Government the natives would come in and take advantage of it.

By the Chairman.] I am in favour of a Native Land Settlement Board. It would be a good thing in the same way if these were controlled by Government of waterworks in locations. If dams were made here on Rietfontein and Nebo there would never be any scarcity of water. There is no give and take with many Europeans. They won't look at the matter from a South African point of view.

I don't think the farmer is greatly prejudiced by living in the native area—except for the possibility of expropriation he can go on as before. I don't think the native has freer grazing as a farm labourer than when he lives in a location.

In my experience as a Commissioner I have noticed that natives living outside locations have a tendency to develop along lines of individualism. There is a great aversion

on the part of the native who has lived for some years on farms going back to tribal conditions, and that is the class of native which it is necessary to provide for in such a way as to enable him to continue along lines of individualism. That would be secured by giving him individual tenure.

Schoonoord, 12th October, 1917

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

300 Natives, representing about 44,000 souls.

SECOCOENI.] I live at Geluks location, within the Beaumont Area. I am Chief of the Bapedi. I am glad to greet the big chief, also our superior officers who are here. There are certain men who have been appointed spokesmen on our behalf. They will be able to tell you exactly what the position is.

TSEKI: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Bapedi, and live at Geluks location. We are glad that the Government has sent you to listen to us. We are dissatisfied with the reasons put up by other gentlemen. If the Government intends giving us land the boundary line should start from the farm St. George, along and including the farms Johannesburg and Pietersburg, right along to Doornhoek, downwards to where the Spekboom meets the Waterval, including the farm Boerboomkraal, and then cross over to Ohrigstad, leaving out the township, and thence down to where the Steelpoort joins the Olifants. We shall be glad if we can get the land as far as that.

The land was formerly occupied by Secocoeni's people. There are some white people living there. We consider that the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission is too small. There are very many people living in Geluks location. There is no further land available in the location. There is no water there. I know the Beaumont boundary line. In former years Secocoeni's country extended beyond that line as far as the Selati railway line. The Beaumont Area is unsuitable, because of lack of water and overcrowding. There is not much water in the Mootsi River. It has a sandy bed, and the water flows under the sand, and does not run the year through. It is only in times of flood that the water appears above the surface. We have not much cattle. I could not say whether, if we had boreholes on the farms in the north of our location, the land would then be sufficient. Some of Secocoeni's people live outside the Beaumont Area among the farmers. Some are labour tenants, and some are squatters. I don't know what rent the squatters pay. Our desire is that our people living outside the Beaumont Area should be provided for in the event of legislation requiring them to move. The only way in which that can be done is by granting us the area which I suggest.

By Mr. Boltman.] There is water in the area I propose. There are several rivers.

By the Chairman.] These rivers can be used for irrigation.

MALUKE: Examined by Chairman.

I am an Induna, of Geluks Location. You have come to hear our grievances. We are pressed in the location. There are many of our people living outside this proposed area. I also say that the boundary should start from the farm St. George, past Rietfontein, down to Doornhoek, where the Spekboom meets the Waterval, and across to Ohrigstad. Personally, I thought that the best line would be to go as far as the Sand River at Edinburgh. There are many of Secocoeni's people in that country, down as far as Bushbuck Ridge. All the other people outside that line are Shangaans and other tribes, not Basutos. The area I have mentioned has been ploughed and used by natives for many years back. Masha's people had made their furrows there—Kalkfontein, 1488. Down at Belvedere there are furrows that have been made by natives, and these have been taken away by Europeans. Belvedere belongs to George Myers. The natives on Belvedere have not been driven away, but before that they were paying no rent. They were simply squatting there. When Myers acquired this farm he cleared them out. Whenever the natives completed irrigation works, the farms were occupied by white people and the natives were made to leave. Some of them had to work as farm labourers.

We have no rivers here with which we can irrigate. The country belongs to us and to our forefathers. We should make use of water if we had it, in order to irrigate. We used water to irrigate before the white man came. When our forefathers came from other parts of the country where white men were, they taught us. We have been here in this land for 8 generations.

By Commandant Opperman.] There is only one small stream in the location. We have made small dams and sown wheat. It might be a good thing to make a large dam, but there is nothing but the spruit here.

STEPHANUS ISESANE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Mokone, and live in Geluk's location. My Chief is Gelukwe. I am one of his counsellors. The Chief himself is overseas with the Native Contingent. A large number of natives have gone over from here with the contingent, and I am here to speak on the business of the Chief. I agree with the last two speakers as to the area. The country is not always good. Sometimes it is rugged and mountainous. In other places it is rough so that you cannot reap anything. It is a very short piece of land. We have no water here, that is why we complain. We have hardly any drinking water for our people. All the people beyond send for their water here to the furrow. We have only the rivers Steelpoort and Dwars and the Olifants on the other side, and there is a river in the Middelburg district called the Ingwaretse. It also dries up like the little spruit here. That is the reason we ask for the larger area indicated by the previous speakers.

The last good crop we harvested here was about 7 years ago. The poorness of the crops since then is due to drought. We do not plough very deeply because we have nothing to plough with. Many of us have no oxen. It is the lack of rain more than anything that is responsible for the poor crops. If we had rain we could irrigate and get good crops. All the people who live on the western side of the location have to walk many miles in order to get drinking water. If boreholes were put down, I think that would meet our domestic requirements. A great many of our natives live on farms outside the location. Some are rent-paying squatters. Others are labour-tenants. The squatters pay £2 a year. When this law was passed, we were told that the people could not pay rent, they must work as farm labourers. Our people prefer paying rent to giving service. They don't care to be farm labourers because they don't get a chance of ploughing their own land. If the locations were big enough I think that all the natives who are farm labourers would come to the location. As to the rent-payers I am not so sure, but I think they would come into the area recommended by us.

PAULUS MOHALE: Examined by Chairman.

I live in Geluk's location. I am glad that you will listen to our grievances. We are grieved on account of having no land. We are full up. We have no water. The reason that we ask for an extension of the area is that there is water on the other side. The people who are living on the farms in the additional area belong to Secocoeni. We pray the Government to assist us as we are their people. We pay all our due to the Government, and when the Government has asked us to assist them, we have done so by sending contingents overseas. Sometimes we have no water to water our cattle and they die. It is only in summer time that they live.

Secocoeni.] Those are the grievances of your people. I will ask our people to stand up and tell us whether what we have spoken is what they intended. We ask that the boundary line be extended. I should like to ask my people to tell us whether what we have said is what they intended us to say.

The 300 natives present rose and acclaimed unanimously what had been said by their spokesmen.

The following were the Chiefs present.

Kgolokoe, Maserumule, Sibasa, Dihlakaneng, Makomane, Komane, Moloke, Mantimo, Nonoane, Mokine, Sekukuni, Serake, Sefogole, Pashe Pokwani, Pashe Nkoane, Motuku Scopela, Moretsele, Tsesane, Tsoaledi, Maluma, Sitinkole, Paul Sinamela, Kgobise, Mahurane, Lesedi, Malakeng, Maseke, Mamagogo, Tsuane, Mpetle, Dinakanyane, Matlen, Legadimane, Dinko, Jan Lekentle, Mosisi, Ngobe, Shoppian, Mabile, Kgolane, Silimatsila, Moela, Magourarela, Shuroane, Mankhuangane, Masha Madibulle, Pudi, Maleka, Madiete, Tshatshi Makula, Nguanatsumane, Magosebo, Maleme, Lehlanga, Mole, Masole, Matafeng, Malele, Tumishe, Morcashai, Kahlola, Manpahlane, Hendrick, Sebucheledi, Malemane, Ukahloleng, Kgakishe, Sefiri, Sedupa, Kgakanehana, Kabishe, Magwaga, Masemyeletshe, Magakala, Madila Monamipane, Munyamane, Koppjane, Mutlane, Pasha Ramoke, Masiakgomo, Manguani, Muswatse, Mashupshoa, Mathule.

SHOPPIAN: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Swazi Chief, representing between 3 and 1,000 souls. I live at Nooitverwacht No. 137. I was driven from the farm I used to live upon. Perhaps if Secocoeni is given a good area, he may give me some land to live on. I have started a furrow on Nooitverwacht and have got notice to leave. Long before that I had made furrows when Sir Godfrey Lagden was here.

I used first to live on Eerste Geluk on the Steelpoort River. It was a private farm. I used to take water out of the river and lead it on to my lands. They were big lands. A whiteman named Lillywhite took away the lands from me. He hired the farm. The

farm belongs to another white man. I am living on the farm as a labour tenant. The owner was not living on the farm, but on another farm where I gave him service in return for the land. I left the farm then and went to live on the adjoining Government farm. The Native Commissioner put me there. Now I have been given notice to leave Nooitverwacht. I have been told by the Government that they require the farm for white men and that I must shift. About two years ago I made irrigation works on that farm.

My people live on various farms as labour tenants.

By Commandant Opperman.] My father came here from Swaziland. I was born here. My father died with Chief Secocoeni and was buried here.

Magnet Heights, near Schoonoord, October 13th, 1917.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTON.

STEPHEN ARCHIBALD WEBB: Examined by Chairman.

I have been living at Magnet Heights in Geluk's Location for 14 years. I am a native trader and have ten stores, nine of them in the location. Fully half of the location, in my opinion is arable, that is, taking Geluk's and Secocoeni's portion together. The balance is good for grazing purposes. I am taking into account that a fairly large proportion is rugged and mountainous. I am speaking, of course, of normal seasons. The last 8 seasons have been extremely bad. The average rainfall during the last three years would be nearly 20 inches, but this is based on hearsay only, I have no accurate figures. I regard the existing location as suitable only for natives. Four-fifths of it is malarious. I certainly do not consider the area adequate, if regard be had to the needs of its present occupants for the next ten years and to the possibility of natives belonging to the same tribe, but living outside, being required to move into the location. To begin with, the stock in the northern half of the location has had to be shifted to the river outside the location for grazing purposes, and, in the second place, water is very scarce indeed. Last year we were on the point of going as far as Schoonoord for our water. We have a small supply of water at Schoonoord, a small fountain here and another one at Maila's They were capable of irrigating a certain quantity of land. At Schoonoord, if the water were conserved, at least 50 morgen could be irrigated. The length of this location is about 35 miles, and natives are living all along the watercourse. If the water were dammed at Schoonoord a large number of natives would be deprived of water for themselves and their cattle. The natives lower down would be seriously prejudiced, they would be absolutely cut off. A water scheme is, in my opinion, not feasible. The same argument applies to the Maila. I estimate that at least 10 to 15 morgen is under irrigation at Maila at present. I cannot say whether it is capable of expansion. At present the Commissioner has had to forbid natives there from watering their wheat. The length of the Maila is about 20 to 25 miles. It runs the whole length but sinks beneath the sand. The stream is very low at present. We had good rains during the winter months. During my first few years here we had fair crops. Since then we have had drought year by year. The natives' crops in that time have been 50 per cent. below the average. I attribute that partly to drought and partly to the fact that the ground has been exhausted by constant cultivation and the growing of mealies. We used to buy thousands and thousands of bags of mealies from the natives, but in the last nine years we have had to import mealies in order to supply the natives with food. This year we have been buying a considerable quantity of mealies for that purpose. They grow kaffir-corn, but mealies chiefly. The former principally in the northern half of the location, the latter in the southern half, the northern being drier than the southern.

I have always had the opinion that the right bank of the Steelpoort right down to the Olifants should be the boundary of this location. The natives occupy the west bank including Aapiesboom. The additional area is mostly occupied by natives. They are mostly company farms with a few crown lands. About ten of the farms in all are occupied personally and beneficially by white men. They are working them satisfactorily, but I can't say whether to the fullest capacity. They grow wheat chiefly. I am not prepared to say that it is a good wheat country. The natives occupying that part of the country are mostly squatters. They pay about £2 I believe. The natives occupy the farms under tribal conditions and chiefs reside on some of the farms. They are chiefly Bapedi and regard Secocoeni as their paramount chief. The value of land in that area has gone up considerably. It varies where there are irrigation possibilities. 7s. 6d. is a very fair average on the other side of the Lulu mountains—not the river farms. These last can, I think, be irrigated from the Steelpoort River. There is no projected irrigation scheme to

my knowledge. I cannot say whether the other side of the river, *i.e.*, the eastern side is capable of irrigation. I have had no opportunity of forming an opinion. About 4 farms could be irrigated on this side—Steelpoortdrift, Bothashoek, Practizuni, and Naboomkoppies. It is difficult to say to what extent. They are large farms about 10,000 morgen altogether. Fifteen per cent. at least could be irrigated. The land all slops towards the river. With the exception of Bothashoek they are solely occupied by natives. Practizuni is, I think, a derelict farm. Bothashoek is owned by whites. Naboomkoppies is owned by a company. If the area described by me fell into the native area there would be a disturbance of only ten white persons approximately. I do not think they would necessarily be prejudiced by inclusion in the native area. Their inclusion might, however, prejudice the natives. The mean temperature during the summer months is about 70°. The Steelpoort Valley is very malarious. Natives suffer very much from malaria over there. The whites have to move out every summer.

Natives have been grumbling about having to move from the location on account of the poorness of the soil and the lack of pasture for their cattle. There is no tendency among the natives to seek individual instead of communal tenure. Natives outside live mostly under private authority. I can't say whether that gives the chief any authority to interfere with their tenure of land outside.

By the Chairman.] By making dams at short intervals the flow of the streams running through the location might be improved but it would take a long time. You must make your dams gradually.

I am not in favour of neutral areas. I would rather see the position definitely settled once and for all.

By Mr. Boltman.] There is no more room in this location for any more natives. There are 27,000 to 30,000 already in this location. I should think a morgen of land is sufficient in a favourable season to sustain a native family of five. But in the last few years hundreds of morgen have produced nothing. Giving the natives more land would not entirely improve the position, but in such cases the natives would have more land to pasture their cattle. The soil is fairly fertile. The yield per morgen in normal seasons would be about 8 to 10 bags by their methods of cultivation. By ploughing a little more might be got. The Beaumont line is too zig-zag and would create friction between whitemen and natives.

By the Chairman.] 8 to 10 bags of mealies would be sufficient to sustain a native family for a year. One morgen of land would, therefore, be sufficient, but not during the last three or five years. The location is not capable under existing conditions of carrying a further native population. I think that agricultural education would enable the natives to grow better crops. Most of the natives till the soil with a hoe and comparatively rarely use the plough. Of late years they tell me that it is no use working as they get nothing. So they go to industrial centres in order to sustain their families. The number of ploughs I sell here is ridiculous. The women are very industrious. The men who remain here are indolent. Seventy-five per cent. of physically fit males go outside to work. A considerable number go to farm-work. They very rarely imitate the white man's methods. I cannot say whether they suffer from malaria when they go to the high-veld.

Lydenburg, 15th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

THOMAS HENRY BABINGTON WAYNE: Examined by Chairman.

I live on the farm Penge, on the Steelpoort Ward, Lydenburg district. I am General Manager of the Asbestos Mines. The mines have been working since January, 1916. The number of white men employed is 22. The number of natives is between seven and eight hundred including women and children. The usual wage is 5s. to 10s. per month for the children. Surface wages of men are £2, and underground wages £2 10s. per month. The labour is drawn from the surrounding country. We have had considerable difficulty in getting labour as natives have previously met with many disappointments at the hands of other concerns and have become distrustful. The natives live on the farms, Penge and Streatham. They live in thatched huts. Their health is satisfactory. We have a compound manager who understands the natives and their needs. I have not really thought over the question of the proposed native area in this district, but there is one thing I should like, and that is that some place should be secured for the mine on which to grow mining timber. We should like to grow plantations on Streatham 1062, Strasburg 167, and Turkey 178. The mines will be a permanent concern. We have had a geological examination of that area and the Geologist reports favourably so far as I know.

I do not think we will be prejudiced in any way by the mine falling within the native area so long as we have under ground rights and a certain amount of surface rights for grazing our stock. We have a number of oxen and donkeys working on the property. Possibly it might be necessary to establish a European township on the property. There is no site in view for such a township. The right of creating one remains in the Company from whom we lease.

"E." 25th October, 1917.

"In reference to the conversation after the return of the Commission from the Asbestos Mines, I beg to confirm my statements. Apart from the unquestionable magnitude of the deposits on the farms Penge and Streatham, others occur at intervals throughout a large part of the length of the proposed reserve. Some of these will unquestionably be worked in time, although they may not be workable under present conditions of market and transport.

"The proposed reserve covers an area in which important gold mines may yet be discovered. At least some of the Pilgrim's Rest series of reefs occur, as indicated by the 'float' quartz.

"Unless the Asbestos deposits on Penge and Streatham (possibly the most important yet discovered), are to be crippled, railway communication with them will have to be established. Provision should also be made for residential and manufacturing sites, roads, tramways, water supplies, power lines, grazing areas, and all things necessary to a (large) industrial population.

"Similar remarks apply to the position in respect of chromite, but this line of mineralisation is only very partially interfered with by the proposed reserve.

"Referring to gold and other minerals, the position is much less definite than in the case of either asbestos or chromite. With further prospecting, however, these former may assume an importance of which we are at present in entire ignorance. I have no doubt the Mines Department would confirm these views.

"Our present knowledge of the mineral occurrences in the proposed reserve is too limited to state what areas should be completely reserved for mining operations and purposes incidental thereto, except, perhaps, in a few instances. Although not absolutely necessary, I consider it would be advisable to definitely withhold all farms from the reserve on which important asbestos and chromite deposits have been proved to exist; also the area north-east of the farms Penge and Streatham, and for which I am applying—for residential, manufacturing, timber growing and horticultural purposes.

"In conclusion, I wish to state that (although there appears to me to be no probability of important mineral occurrences being found on the majority of the area of the proposed reserve), it will certainly be the scene of very large mining operations, and especially so when the chromite is worked on a large scale. Any restriction of mining operations hits the natives severely, and especially so in the locality in question where the rainfall is exceptionally small and their crops frequently are total failures."

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) T. H. B. WAYNE.

LAURENCE TEASDALE: Examined by Chairman.

I live on the farm Elandsfontein 167, near Pilgrim's Rest, in the Lydenburg district. I am an Estate manager of the Lydenburg-Transvaal Gold Exploration Company. The property covers hundreds of square miles. No mining is being done just now. Four of our farms fall within the proposed native area. They are Elandsfontein 167, California 64, Nooitgedacht and Claremont. At the present time we are farming on Elandsfontein and have made considerable improvements—about £4,000 worth. We consider that the farm already holds its full complement of natives. No further natives could be placed there with their stock. Claremont, again, is in the gold-bearing area. (The *Chairman*: I take it that if you are allowed to retain your mineral rights your company will not be prejudiced.) The improvements on Elandsfontein include buildings, dams, fences, and plantations of trees. Our desire has been so far as possible to keep all our farms grouped. Now, some of them fall inside the area and others outside. The value of the farms is, Claremont, 10s. per morgen (surface rights only). No improvements, Elandsfontein, 22s. 6d.; improvements, 12s. 6d. extra; California, 7s. 6d.; and Nooitgedacht, 9s. No improvements have been made except upon Elandsfontein. There is one spring on Elandsfontein which flows the year through. At present we have about 15 morgen under irrigation. The spring is not capable of irrigating any more. Claremont has a good supply of water, but it requires to be elevated before it can be used to irrigate. It cannot be made use of by gravitation. On California about 25

morgen might come under irrigation from the Ohrigstad River. There is no water on Nooitgedacht. All four farms are occupied by natives. Roughly, there are about 520 families on the four farms. They have been there many years. I have been there three years. Farming on Elandsfontein has, however, been carried on continuously since 1903. We produce mainly mealies and forage—perhaps 400 bags of mealies a year—lucerne and other products, say, £500 a year. It is a good grazing country.

With the exception of Elandsfontein, and provided we get the usual facilities for mining on the other farms, we have no objection to the inclusion of the farms within the native area. We should like to see Elandsfontein excluded in any case because we think its value will fall if it is included in the native area. The country is healthy. There is malaria. I have had it several times: But I consider the country healthy, nevertheless. The altitude is about 4,000 feet.

JACOBUS NIEUWENHUIZE (Spokesman of a Committee of four consisting of himself, Messrs. J. W. de Beer, C. J. J. Joubert, and H. P. Jansen—appointed by the Public of Lydenburg to make representations.)

The meeting of the public which chose us in 1915 has instructed us in this matter and chosen us as a standing committee for the whole district. One man has been chosen for each Ward—myself, Ward Steelpoort. Mr. de Beer, Crocodile River, Mr. Joubert, Steenkampsberg, and Mr. Jansen, Ohrigstad. Each Ward is represented except the village itself. The village has not taken any action so far as we know.

Examined by Chairman.] I gave evidence before the Beaumont Commission on the 30th May, 1914. I did so as representing a certain portion of the Lydenburg district. My evidence then was with respect to the Steelpoort Ward. The district falls roughly into two divisions, to the east and west of the Drakensberg, respectively. Messrs. Jansen and Swart gave evidence with respect to eastern Lydenburg.

The Beaumont area shown in the map is not exactly the area recommended by us. A small change was made with our knowledge and consent. The Commission called me to Pretoria in December, and I met there the Chairman, Colonel Stanford and Messrs. Wessels, Collins, and Burger. They told me then that the line recommended by our deputation was to be altered and that they did not want the line to go along the Steelpoort as far as its junction with the Olifants, but wanted to include certain four farms along the Steelpoort. Then, again, there is the farm Schlekmanskloof No. 12. According to our recommendation this was in the white area, but the Commission decided to retain it in the native area as there was a native stad on it. All our recommendations were accepted except with respect to six farms on the banks of the Steelpoort and two other farms Schlekmanskloof and Hoepakrantz, which were included in the native area. Generally speaking, we are satisfied with the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission. The reasons given for including these farms which we had recommended should be included were approved by us. I was asked in Pretoria whether that would be acceptable, and I answered that I thought it would. It seemed to me to be fair enough. At that time I confined myself to representations in connection with Secocoeniland. I am quite satisfied with the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission so far as Secocoeniland is concerned. I should like to remark that what we said before the Beaumont Commission has been amply corroborated since by facts. For instance, we said that furrows could be taken out on each of the farms along the Steelpoort. Since then about £2,000 has been spent on furrows along the Steelpoort. I said in my evidence before the Beaumont Commission that about 800 morgen on Bothashoek and Practizeer could be brought under irrigation. The irrigation works have not yet reached these farms, but there is a furrow under construction on Doornbosch 423 above these farms, and this furrow can be extended to serve Bothashoek and Practizeer. Doornbosch belongs to a Mr. Erasmus, of Witpoort, in the Middelburg district. He lives at Doornbosch in the winter. He bought the farm last year and intends to use it for cattle grazing. It is not good country for merino sheep. The irrigation work has reached a point about halfway on the farm Aapiesboom. It is capable of extension as far as Bothashoek and Practizeer. I think now that more than 800 morgen can be placed under irrigation on these two farms. I can't say exactly how many. Aapiesboom belongs to Mr. Evans of Johannesburg. It is not occupied by whites. There are four or five families of natives. The grazing rights are let to white people and the land is let to the natives. The owner does not use the farm himself. With regard to Steelpoortsdrift, a portion of the south-eastern portion belongs to Mr. Joubert, a member of our deputation. The remainder belongs to a Mr. Kruger of Ohrigstad. His portion is unoccupied. Bothashoek belongs partly to a Mr. de Sousa, and the remainder to 7 other persons. It is not occupied. Practizeer is a Government farm and is not occupied by white people. There are a considerable number of natives on Bothashoek. A few native families have come to live on Steelpoortdrift since Mr. Joubert has begun to work the farm. I don't know of any natives on Practizeer. The farm has not been granted to settlers by the Government. I value Practizeer at present at about 15s. per morgen. Two-fifths of Practizeer is mountainous, almost 50 per cent. of Bothashoek is

mountainous. Steelpoortdrift is mountainous to the same extent—very rugged and broken in character. The value of Bothashoek is about 15s. per morgen. As to Steelpoortdrift, the portion on the river (300 morgen out of 1,100 being under irrigation), was sold recently for 22s. 6d., the other portion I value at 15s. Aapiesboom is practically a mountain. About 25 morgen can be placed under irrigation. I value Aapiesboom at 10s. per morgen. It is not occupied by Europeans. There are a few small native kraals. I do not know how long they have been there. There are some natives on Doornbosch. It is practically all mountainous. About 60 or 70 morgen could be placed under irrigation. I value it at 10s. a morgen. About 80 per cent. of winterveld is mountainous. It is capable of irrigation from a different point from which the others could be irrigated. On Eerste Geluk a lot of lands are being irrigated by a stream from the mountain. Steelpoortdrift 1343 can be irrigated—about 120 morgen—from Aapiesboom. This Aapiesboom is Mr. Buhrmann's farm. He does not occupy. There are natives who pay rent. There are hardly any mountains upon it, but it is rugged in places. I think about 180 morgen would be arable and productive, 100 morgen on the right bank and 80 on the left. I mean 180 can be brought under irrigation. To irrigate the right bank (100 morgen), the furrow should be taken from Klip River, while the furrow for the left bank should be taken out on the farm de Hoop coming through Aapiesboomen.

Mooimeisjestontein belongs to Messrs. Grobler and Coetzer, who do not live on the farm. There are natives living on it, who pay rent. The owners make no use of the farm. I value Aapiesboom at 20s. per morgen; the grazing is good, but not for sheep. There is plenty of arable land, but many of the lands are exhausted. I value Steelpoortsdrift at 15s. per morgen, a large portion of it is mountainous. I am taking into consideration that 120 morgen can be irrigated. I value Mooimeisjesfontein at 7s. 6d. 25 morgen can be irrigated. An irrigation work is now in existence. It was carried out by Mr. Webb. It has been completed to Boschkloof. Boschkloof belongs to Mr. Webb. A Mr. Hannan lives there. He should be able to irrigate 130 morgen. I value Boschkloof at 15s., a good deal of it is mountainous, about 75 per cent. There are natives on this farm—farm labourers. Goedeverwachting belongs to John Joubert, who lives in Pretoria. Natives live on the farm. Webb's irrigation scheme might be extended to this farm. The natives there are farm labourers. The owner runs the farm through a manager, but nothing has been done up to now. I value it at 12s. 6d. Two-thirds of it is mountainous.

Eerste Geluk belongs to R. Schurink. He does not occupy the farm himself. It has been occupied about four years by people who work it. One-sixth of it is mountainous—only a few kopjes. I value it at 20s. There are natives on it, but not a large number. They are farm labourers. There are some improvements, for instance, the lands. There is a spruit irrigating between 70 and 80 morgen, but far more could be irrigated.

It is true that when I gave my evidence before the Beaumont Commission I said that the farms I have just mentioned were capable of irrigation to the extent of 800 morgen in all. At that time, however, I was claiming ground for the white people, and was as moderate as possible. Since then I have come to the conclusion that very much more could be placed under irrigation.

All the farms south of Aapiesboom, along the river up to the boundary of the district, are capable of irrigation. I think it inadvisable to include that tract of country within the native area.

I do not say that natives ought to be excluded from all opportunities of irrigation, but they should not be given such opportunities at the cost of the white people. Europeans should not be prejudiced with regard to any irrigation schemes in the district. I think that where natives are living on land which is capable of irrigation that portion of the land should be given to white people. I do not think that a boundary line extending more to the east of the Steelpoort River would be more satisfactory as meeting the needs of natives who have lived there for generations, and in order to make provision for years to come. The whole population is of opinion that the natives of Sekukuniland could be satisfied with the 125 farms which have been given them. We think that the 85 farms over and above the location included in the native area are sufficient to make provision for 40,000 natives. The whole area is quite sufficient for 64,000 natives of Geluks tribe, 40 per cent. is arable and productive. I consider that the area will satisfy the needs of the natives of Sekukuniland, and those natives who may come over the river as a result of legislation. Very few natives on the white area will move, in my opinion.

It is not easy to say how many morgen will sustain a native family of five. I can only make an estimate from my own natives. On my farm about three morgen is sufficient. Within the Native Area I should think about the same. One morgen should produce about 25 bags in a good season, that is 75 bags for three morgen, but natives seldom get that. I think that in a good season three morgen within the area should produce 75 bags of mealies, but not if the lands are exhausted. Natives never improve their lands. They never fertilise, and when they have exhausted one land they simply leave it and plough another.

I cannot say what proportion of Geluks location is exhausted, nor what proportion is

exhausted in the additional area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. The total area of the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission to be added to Geluks location is 230,200 morgen, 40 per cent., viz., 92,080 morgen is arable, and is sufficient for the whole native population. I cannot say for how many years the natives in the area have had very poor crops. But for many years I know they have been buying grain. I should say that during the last five years they have been harvesting 60 per cent. of their normal crops—mostly kaffir corn. Natives in this district do not avail themselves of irrigation at all. The irrigation work you saw on your way from Aapiesboom, and which you were told was taken out by a native is not irrigation in my opinion. My experience is that natives do not make use of irrigation. I could refer you to the same spruit (*i.e.*, the one on Steelpoort park), to prove to you that natives are not anxious to irrigate. I cannot say whether it is a fact that a native made the irrigation work to which you refer, and that he was subsequently replaced by whites. I admit that the natives at Maila's Poort in the location do irrigate to some extent, but the furrows were taken out by missionary boys, who imitated the white man. It does not necessarily follow, however, that natives who have had opportunities of studying the white man's methods are likely to want to irrigate. The mission boys I refer to came from Pokwani. Between 12 and 20 morgen are irrigated at Maila's. I don't think the natives lower down would irrigate if there were sufficient water. The natives who irrigate are quite exceptional. Even if the native is not entirely averse to irrigation he won't take trouble. I doubt whether, if he were instructed, he would take trouble. I don't think it a reasonable thing to want to make immediate provision for natives who may want to irrigate. In any case there are six farms which would supply the needs of any natives who want to irrigate.

There is very little difference, so far as health conditions are concerned, between the Steelpoort and Olifants. The Steelpoort is very unhealthy, malarious.

It is true that the farms along the river have only recently been taken up by white people, except as grazing farms. In another ten years they will all be taken up and occupied by whites. In two years a great deal has been done. Practically all the irrigation works have taken place within the last twelve months.

I do not consider that the Swazis and other tribes would be content to come into this area. I am not prepared to suggest another area, but in any case we have no Swazis in this district worth speaking of.

I am not prepared to make any representations with regard to the 42,000 natives living in the Graskop sub-district. My evidence does not contemplate the accommodation of those natives in the area we have spoken of here to-day. I realise, however, that some provision ought to be made for them other than the area we have discussed to-day.

The public is quite satisfied with the Beaumont Area so far as Sekukuniland is concerned.

By Commandant Opperman.] I know Geluks location well. I agree that it would make a great difference to the productiveness of the soil if the ground were ploughed deeply instead of shallowly. Geluks location is sterile in parts, at Mankupaan's there are parts that are extremely sterile, but on the southern side the soil is very good. The formation, however, is such that the water runs away and sinks very easily.

My own personal opinion is that even if dams were made every thousand yards it would not do much good.

By the Chairman.] It would not do much good, because the water sinks away. I am not prepared to say whether waterboring would answer there. I have never had to do with boring.

By Mr. Boltman.] On the left bank of the Steelpoort 1,100 morgen are capable of irrigation. On the other side there is very little to be done. I don't know whether any portion of Steynsdrift can be irrigated, on Uitvlugt I should say about 30 morgen, Op de Hoop 25 morgen, Aapiesboom 100 morgen, Steelpoortpark 30 morgen, Belvedere 200 morgen, on Kennedy's vale 250 morgen. I am speaking only, of course, of ground which can be brought under irrigation within the means of a practical farmer.

By the Chairman.] On the right bank 2,133 morgen in all are, in my opinion, capable of irrigation—on Spitzkop 100 morgen, Annex Grootboom 20 morgen, Grootboom 120 morgen, Goudmijn 88 morgen, Olifantspoortje 10 morgen, Sterkfontein 30 morgen, Leeuwvallei 350 morgen, Aapiesdoorndraai 200 morgen, Viljoenshoop 250 morgen total together with the 635 morgen before mentioned 2,133 morgen.

Four of these farms are occupied all the year round. I am not prepared to say that the flow is sufficient to irrigate all the lands mentioned. That still remains to be seen. With regard to the spruits in the location, I do not think a chain of dams would make any difference. The dams in any case would not hold the water.

(*Mr. C. Joubert:* So far as my knowledge extends there are places along these spruits where dams can be made, and where the water would stand—not every thousand yards, however. There are very good places for dams. I think it would be a good thing to make dams).

Mr. NIEUWENHUIZE: The average rainfall in Sekoeoeniland during the last three years, has, I should say, been about 11 inches. I could not say what it should be in normal times. I am not in favour of neutral areas.

HERCULES P. JANSEN: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Justice of the Peace, and live at Krugerspost in this district. I was born in this district. I wish to give evidence on certain points in connection with the native area in this district. I wish to support the Beaumont Commission's recommendations. We agreed to those where they exceeded our original recommendations.

I think that the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission is suitable. It is suitable for the natives of the whole of the Lydenburg district. The portion lying between the lines marked yellow on the map would be suitable for natives who may be required to move as the result of legislation. It is good ground. The average yield of mealies would depend upon the way the ground is worked. In the ordinary native manner I should say the yield would be about 11 bags. I don't base that calculation on the last three seasons. To obtain that yield the season must be very much better than the last three years. I should say the rainfall would be about 10 inches; that would be sufficient to produce 11 bags of mealies per year.

There is a spruit there. Only about 18 morgen can be placed under irrigation there—Nooitgedacht. About one morgen of land under irrigation is sufficient to sustain a native family of five. Just about double that amount of dry land would be necessary.

An irrigated morgen of land could be cultivated more than once during the year. There could be two crops, one of mealies and one of wheat. You can produce corn on dry lands.

With regard to the adequacy of the Beaumont Area. I do not think it is sufficient to carry the whole of the native population of the Lydenburg district. There are 42,000 natives in the Graskop sub-district who, I think, should be provided for in that neighbourhood. I do not recommend that these natives be shifted to another district. We are anxious to retain as many natives as possible for farm labour. They are an asset to us provided they work. I am not in favour of bringing natives from the Graskop area and putting them in the area immediately north of Lydenburg. Most of the land north of Lydenburg is to-day occupied by Europeans. In the Graskop area only 10 farms are occupied by Europeans. I think that whatever extension is made should be made from the Beaumont line to a point on the railway line at Fleur-de-lis, thence along the Klassuni to its junction with the Olifants, and that the area in between should be reserved for the 42,000 natives in the Graskop sub-district. I think that would be sufficient.

I am in favour of having the areas compact. I am not in favour of giving the natives an area which is capable of being linked up with the Barberton Area. The area I recommend is not suitable for white people.

We think the Game Reserve is too large, and that the natives should be provided for in that reserve. We prefer that to bringing the natives further south. I don't know whether it would be acceptable to the natives in the south. I value the land in the area I recommend at about 3s. a morgen. There is water—the Olifants, the Blijde and the Klassurie Rivers. That would be the most acceptable way of providing for these 42,000 natives. I am not in favour of neutral areas.

(All the members of the Deputation on being questioned expressed themselves as opposed to neutral areas).

The rainfall in the area I suggest is about 10 inches. There are no white farmers up there.

MICHA DUIKWANA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Bapedi, and live at Boomplaats, in the Lydenburg district. The farm belongs to me. I bought it. There are many natives living on the farm with me. I have owned the farm for 12 years, and have been in occupation of it before the Anglo-Boer War 17 to 20 years. The farm cost £3,550, which is paid off. My tribe assisted me to pay it off. There is very little water on the farm—a small spruit. We have had a meeting of about 300 natives, who elected a number of men who are here present to represent the views of the natives of the Lydenburg district to the Committee.

We have been told how far the boundary line is to come. We have lived here in this country for many years. We took it for our home. Our fathers lived and died here. Then there came a time when the white men appeared, and said "We have bought these farms. You must leave." After we had cultivated our lands we were compelled to leave because the white people came and took them away. We natives are many in this country, and we have a lot of stock, and we are starving with our stock.

We ask that our boundary line should run from the farm Chieftainsplain No. 169, on the western boundary of the district, including the farms Chieftainsplain 169, Uysedoorns 1012, Pietersburg 1038, Der Broeken 1158, Schaapkraal 442, Kafferskraal 630, Triangle 542, Kraaibosch 145, Roodekrans 320, Waterval 1441, Enkeldedoorns 1387, Rooidraai 1242, Sterkspruit 159, Paardeplaats 556, Nooitgedacht 945, Natalshoop 1491, Potloodspruit 411, Klipfontein 1162, thence along the Ohrigstad Road through the following farms: Krugerspost 1193, Klipheuvel 524, Rustplaats 15, Uitkomst 1434, Grootboom 31, Ohrigstad, Strijdfontein 37, Haakdoorndraai 447, Roodepoort 448, to the Beaumont line at the farm Elandsfontein 167. Thence along the Beaumont line to the south-eastern corner of Mulford 77, thence along the western boundaries of Ohrig 76, Hebron 359, Wel-

gevonden 364, thence along the southern boundaries of Welgevonden 364, Wales 365, Casteel 360, Champagne 247, Dingleydale 256, Edinburgh 266, to where it cuts the railway line, thence northwards along the railway line to where it crosses the Olifants River. That country is the only areas I can recommend that would satisfy our natives. We include the village of Lydenburg. We want that to be our administrative centre and headquarters of our area. But if there is any difficulty about that we could go along the spruit and exclude the town. Colonel Damant has explained to us what the Schoonoord natives have recommended. We do not agree with those recommendations. We want our area added to theirs. The natives here are spread chiefly over farms belonging to white people. They have a large quantity of great and small stock. Some of them are rent payers, and others are labour tenants. I said just now that there were cases where natives had been the former occupants of farms had made water-furrows, cleared lands and planted trees, and that subsequently white men came along, bought the land, or leased it, and required them to shift. I can give an instance of this. The farm Boomkraal 218 belonged to my father. It was given to him by his brother Sekukoeni. My father dug out furrows there, and led water into the corn lands from the Waterval River. I occupied the farm after him for many years, and after I had cleared it of many trees I was driven out and had to leave. That was after the old war with Sekukoeni, and the white man has occupied the farm ever since. I did not leave at once, but had to hire land from him for £70 a year, until 20 years ago when I left to go and live on the farm I have bought.

SALOMON SIPUBE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Mopedi, and I live on the farm Mostertshoek, owned by a company. My Chief is Micha.

We beg you to take care of our interest. The Beaumont Area is not sufficient. The question is how many natives are there, and how many Europeans. Much land should be given to those who are many. I agree with the recommendation of Micha.

ABEL DIMPELANE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Mopedi. My Chief is Micha. I live at Boomplaats. I pay rent to the chief. I pay £5 per year. I have about 4 morgen. I helped to pay for the farm. The £5 I am now paying now goes to pay for the farm. We are under tribal control of the chief. We prefer that. I know that the chief can turn us off the land at will, and that if he goes insolvent, and is sold up, we will have to go too. We die with the chief. I agree with what the chief has said about the area. It is too small. I belong to Sekukoeni's tribe. I should not like to go and live in Sekukuniland. There is no more room for the natives in Sekukuniland. It is overcrowded there.

DIRK KANA: Examined by Chairman:

I am a Zulu, and live on the Berlin Mission Station, at Lydenburg. I have come to speak on behalf of Manok. I only heard recently that there was a meeting to-day. I don't want to say much. This question is a great trouble to us. We cannot prevent our father from doing what he wants, so we leave it to him to do what is right for us but not to chase us about from place to place. I obey the King. What he tells me to do I must do.

I pay rent and would like to remain where I am. I have a written contract with the owner of the farm but there is no time stated. I must submit to whatever the law says. I spoken with one of the native delegates sent to England to protest against the Native Affairs Administration Bill. He has told us about his movements in England. I had rather not say whether I think what he says against the Bill is right and proper.

The meeting of natives was hereupon called upon to say whether they approved of Micha's recommendations. Thirty stood up to signify their approval. Manok's people, about 10 remained sitting.

Farm Onverwacht, Lydenburg District, 16th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, Commandant OFFERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

JOHANNES AUGUST WINTER: Examined by Chairman.

I live on the farm Onverwacht. I have been in this neighbourhood since 1880, and on this farm since 1901. Before that I lived on Osjate No. 334. I went there in 1880. In those days Sekukoeni lived with his tribe on Osjate. His people were spread all round about. Many of them lived as far as Pokwani. There were none between Pokwani and Tautesberg. Sekukoeni's people shifted to Geluk's because they were afraid of their women

being converted. Micha and his people lived in the direction of Lydenburg on the farm Boerboomskraal. Of the farms within the Beaumont Area in this neighbourhood. Switzerland cannot be ploughed. Himalaya is still worse. Avoca consists of dongas only: de Kamp is mostly mountainous. On Malekskraal about fifty morgen can be ploughed, but not necessarily productively; on Baviaanskop a few morgen can be ploughed—the natives there plough on Magnetvlakte where about 100 morgen are arable. There is no irrigation on these farms. On Tivoli about 6 morgen can be ploughed—only alongside the spruit. De Paarl is a splendid farm about 500 morgen can be ploughed. Wismar is a good farm. The rainfall hereabouts was 9 inches last year from April to April.

I know the country between here and the Steelpoort. On the farm Winterveld I think about 1,000 morgen can be ploughed. It is a good farm. The country within the Beaumont Areas is, I think, the most unhealthy country in the world. I have lived here for 37 years with my family and though I have never lost a child not a year passed without our getting fever badly. Along the river white people can live. It is fairly healthy, better than the country within the Beaumont Area.

JOHANNES PAUL DANIEL WINTER: Examined by Chairman.

I live on the farm Mecklenburg. The last witness is my father. I was born on the farm Hackney and brought up here in this neighbourhood. I am agent for the Transvaal Estates and Development Company in respect of 28 farms, all within the Beaumont Area between the Olifants and Steelpoort and east of the Lulu Mountains. Of the 28 farms 4 cannot be ploughed at all. Of the remainder about 1/20th can be brought under cultivation. The rainfall was 9 inches last year. There were no crops last year, and the year before very little. A normal year comes once in ten years. The names of the farms for which I am agent are, Switzerland, Twickenham, Hackney, Surbiton, Forest Hill, Clapham, the Shelter, Koedoeskraal, Wimbledon, Edendale, Frankfort, Naboomkoppies, Haakdoornhoek, Kranskloof, Kromellenboog, Zamenloop, Alverton, Pretoria, Onverwacht, Diepkloof, Weltevreden, Zonneschijn, Morgenzon, Holfontein, Streatham, Annesley, Havercroft, Patney, and Croydon.

During the last three years I think the average yield of crops has been 75 per cent. below normal. During that time the natives have been buying grain. Such farms as have water are fully occupied by natives. The farms cannot carry any more natives. If the natives had gone in for European methods of cultivation their production would have been increased. They might in this way have got a yield 65 per cent. below normal. The grass is good in normal seasons. The rainfall in normal seasons is about 20 inches. In normal seasons a native would get about 16 bags of mealies to a morgen. The tribes hereabouts are Baroca, Bapedi and Swazi. The Beaumont Area is very unhealthy. If is too small to provide for 171,000 natives (assuming that to be the number of natives in the district in ten year's time). In my opinion about 8 morgen of land in this area are necessary to sustain a native family of five.

The natives in the area have no water and the spruits dry up in dry seasons. The average rainfall during the last ten years is about ten inches. I think it absolutely necessary that the area should be extended to the Steelpoort, which forms a convenient natural boundary. It is necessary to enable the natives to water their stock. The line should run along the Steelpoort up to its junction with the Spekboom, including the farms Aapiesdoorndraai, Dresden, Thionville, Longsight, Jeddo, and Rietfontein, joining the Beaumont line at the southern corner of Ardwick. With regard to the 42,000 natives in the Graskop sub-district, I think they must be provided for elsewhere. There is no room for them in the area I recommend. I am not prepared to say how they should be provided for.

I know Geluk's Location. The soil in the southern half of it is very good. I think if the natives adopted European methods they would produce more than they do. The soil in the northern half is just as good, only drier. I think the location might carry a few more natives—not, however, if the increase for the next ten years is taken into consideration. Even with improvements, well-making, and so on, it would hardly be large enough to accommodate its own increase in the next ten years. I have not heard that fifty families have left because they have not been able to exist there, but I should not be surprised to hear it. It would make a great difference if the Government assisted the natives to make, say, twenty wells.

By Commandant Opperman.] I think the location is suitable for boring, especially in Secocoeni's portion.

By the Chairman.] The roads run through the best parts of the area because those are the inhabited parts. The inaccessible parts are sparsely inhabited. They are worse than the parts seen from the roads. The following farms for which I am agent border on the river, viz., Naboomkoppies, Haakdoornhoek, Kranskloof, Kromellenboog, Zamenloop, Alverton, Pretoria, and Onverwacht. I tried on these farms to take a level for the purpose of taking out furrows, but found it to be absolutely impossible to irrigate except on Kromellenboog, where there are about 30 morgen that could be brought under irrigation. In my opinion, irrigation is not possible on Practizeer.

I am part owner of Muklenburg which is within the Beaumont Area. The farm is worked and occupied by me and my partner.

Mooihoek, District Lydenburg, 17th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN, Chief MAUDE and 10 followers.

MAUDE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief of the Bakoni, and live on Schlukmanskloof, which is Government ground. I have lived there all my life. It has been handed down from generation to generation since my grandfather's time. My grandfather and father are buried there, and our sacred ground is there. I pay the Government £1 per year for rent. The farm is not occupied by white men. We are not satisfied with the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. It is not sufficient. One reason is that white people have taken up ground in this area and some of us have been displaced. All my natives do not live on Schlukmanskloof. The farm is very small and it is for that reason some of my natives have scattered on various farms. It is from these farms that they have been excluded by European occupation. Some have left and others have crossed to the other side of the Steelpoort.

So far as I and my people are concerned I should like the line of the native area to run beyond the Steelpoort as far as the Waterval River. There are many of us and we have not enough land to plough. I cannot say what farms I want included on the Waterval side as I do not know their names. Perhaps one of my Councillors will be able to explain.

The area recommended by the Beaumont Commission is not sufficient and the water-supply is very poor. So far as Schlukmanskloof is concerned the white man on the farm below has taken all the water and we have no water to use for our lands. The farm referred to is Derde Gelid.

We have a lot of stock. We water them on the farm, but there is not enough for them.

TATE: Examined by Chairman.

The last speaker is my chief, and I live with him on Schlukmanskloof. My recommendation is the same as that of my chief, namely, viz., that the line should run on the other side of the Steelpoort. I should like the line to run just otherside of Manok's farm. For our own location we should like to have the farms along the river. One reason is that our cattle have not sufficient grazing at present. The grazing is not good on our farm. A good many of our people occupy the area which we want added to the Beaumont Area.

(All the following supported the speakers).

Mecklenburg, 18th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

CECIL JOCELYN WARD: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Mecklenburg. I own the farm together with Mr. Winter. I am not prepared to say what the value of it is at the present time. It is an exceptional farm for this area with unique possibilities because of a very good water-supply from the Mootsi. We have already constructed an irrigation work and a large dam has been built just above our cultivations, twenty morgen are under irrigation. Another 30 can be placed under irrigation, but in order to do that we should have to make a large weir and a concrete well. I have been in this district 30 years. All that time has been spent in the Steelpoort Area so that I have a fairly wide knowledge of local conditions. I have been a trader most of the time and have been in close contact with natives. I have heard of the Beaumont Area and am of opinion that it cannot carry more than its present population. It would be totally inadequate for the 80,000 natives who, I understand, are living in the district outside the area. It is not overcrowded, but it is carrying as many as it possibly can carry with their increase.

The country is very rugged and broken up. For the last 8 or 9 years the natives have only had one decent crop. They have had only two decent crops since the Anglo-Boer War. This year the crops were a total failure. Last year two-thirds were lost.

If the natives adopted European methods there would be an improvement in parts of the country. In other parts, however, where there is sandy soil it makes no difference how deep you plough. In "turf" ploughing would make all the difference. There is a

depth of three farms up from the Olifants and six farms from the Steelpoort where the soil is sandy and won't hold water. Ploughing deep does not help.

I think the line of the native area should strike from a point just this side of Middelburg passing above Mapochsgronden along the Steelpoort, and following the river as far as Viljoenshoop; thence along Beaumont line to where it cuts the Ohrigstad Road to Nooitgedacht. From that point I should not care to offer an opinion as I do not know the country. My reason for recommending this line is that the natives should not be cut off from any water-supply and the river, moreover, serves as a natural boundary. The natives would not appreciate an artificial boundary like the Beaumont line.

The Steelpoort Area is very poorly watered and the natives depend mostly on the river and on small fountains and water-holes. The rivers are the permanent supply. They have to bring their cattle to the Steelpoort very often.

The natives use the plough and also the hoe. The men work much more than they did formerly and use the plough more frequently. The women are becoming refractory and refuse to hoe. Many of the natives go out to work, mostly on the mines. Very few go out to work on farms.

If bore-holes were put down in the native area they would be out of order in a week. The natives would never look after them.

Inside the area the following farms are useless because they are rugged and mountainous and have no water, and because of the quartzite formation:—Fallowfield, Eccles, Chorton, Patricroft, Pochabers, Cheadle, Didsbury, Clareton, Godwinton, Frisco, Condor, Valenciennes, Onverwacht, Samenloop, Krantzkloof, Riverside, Weltevreden, Penge, Annesley, Streatham, Tivoli, Stellenbosch, de Paarl, Stavenhagen, Roodekrantz, Bostoek, Schweren, and Haakdoornhoek. When the quartzite series occurs you find that the ground is so porous that it does not retain water and is always dry.

The natives won't live along the Olifants River because it is malarious.

If I had to accommodate the natives at present living in the high-veld who might be required to move, I should do so in the area between Tautesberg and Pokwani, in the Middelburg district. The conditions there would be the same as where they are now living.

I am in favour of linking up all the native areas into one compact area as far as possible.

I think 10 per cent. of the whole native area is cultivable. That is cultivable but not necessarily productive. In normal, *i.e.*, good seasons, 10 per cent. is cultivable and productive.

Farm Hackney District Lydenburg, 18th October, 1917.

ROLAND CHARNLEY: Examined by Chairman.

I live on the farm Twickenham in this area. I have been in this portion of the Transvaal since 1909. I have been a native store-keeper during that time and own five stores in the neighbourhood.

Since I have been here there has been a gradual decrease in native crops every year.

I know the Beaumont Area more or less from description. I don't think it is sufficient. It takes the natives at the present all their time to make a living.

I cannot say what the rainfall is, but it is very little. Since 1910 I have supplied grain to natives in considerable quantities. That is an indication that the natives are not able to produce sufficient for their sustenance. For, if a native had a good crop, he would not buy at all. Natives always reserve sufficient of their crop, if they have a good one, to carry them through.

If the natives adopted European methods of cultivation, I don't think their production would be materially increased because we have not the rainfall.

I think the line of the native area should run along the Steelpoort to the boundary of the Middelburg district. Everything north of the Steelpoort to its junction with the Olifants should be in the native area. I am not guided by the fact that the natives have lived in that area for generations. I believe that that is what is necessary to sustain them.

There are a few Europeans in that area. I should say about 15. They go in for mixed farming—maize and cattle. There are natives on their farms, but I cannot say how long they have been there.

I know Geluk's location. I do not know the soil very well. I know the soil from Clapham to Hackney.

I consider that the soil there is not as good as the soil in the location. I cannot say whether there is any difference between the rainfall here and there, but we never get the same crops as in Geluk's location.

By Mr Boltman.] I know Geluk's fairly well.

By the Chairman.] The natives here go out to work on the mines a great deal. The supply of labour is largely influenced by bad seasons.

I cannot say what proportion of the Clapham to Hackney Area is capable of cultivation and production. There is very little water. Bore-holes would certainly improve matters.

Roodepoort 448, *District Lydenburg*, 22*nd October*, 1917.

PRESENT:

The CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

GERHARDUS CORNELIS SCHOEMAN: Examined by Chairman.

I live on the farm Roodepoort, Ward Ohrigstad, district Lydenburg. I was born here.

I know the Beaumont Area, and can speak to the following farms in the area. On Nooitgedacht 4,000 morgen can be ploughed, but there is not a drop of water. The owners are the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates. Eccles is very poor, all stone. Fallowfield is poor. On Klipfontein about 800 morgen can be ploughed; it is good ground. Pamshill and Oldham are both poor farms. Valenciennes has a little soil that can be ploughed—about 100 morgen. Condor is a poor farm. Clareton is poor. On Didsbury about 70 morgen can be ploughed, on Frisco nothing, on Godwinton about 60 morgen, Cheadle about 50 morgen, Patrieroft about 50 morgen, Pochabers nothing—very stony, Anlage nothing, California, between 400 and 500 morgen; Sterkspruit, between 600 and 700 morgen; Rietvlei, between 500 and 600 morgen; Steenveld is only good for cattle; Diepkloof, the same; Driehoek, almost the whole can be ploughed; Claremont, 500 morgen; Elandsfontein, almost the whole.

I think the Beaumont Area is not sufficient for the natives of this district. When I gave evidence before the Beaumont Commission I said that the area was quite unsuitable for the natives. The rainfall is very poor. Very frequently natives come here to buy grain. Only once in 7 years do they get fair crops.

My recommendation is that the boundary of the native area should begin at the Sand River following the river and the railway line northwards up to the Olifants on the farm Oxford, southwards along the river to where it almost meets the railway line on the farm Sabi-brug No. 63, thence to where the railway line cuts the Sabi River, thence along the Sabi to where it reaches the farm Frankfort No. 504, including Frankfort and following the western boundaries of the following farms: Welcome, Waterhoutboom, Hebron, Jobskop, Versailles, Onverwacht, Crystaal, Vooruitzicht, Turpin, Welgevonden, Hebron, Belvedere, joining the Beaumont line at Mulford, thence following the Beaumont line westwards as shown in the map.

I think that so far as Sekukuniland is concerned the Beaumont Area is good enough. I do not approve of the Steelpoort being the boundary. There are a good many white farmers on the Steelpoort.

The Beaumont Area is very poor. Nothing will grow. I should say roughly about half the ground in that area can be ploughed. I don't think that the natives now living in the area I propose would be content to go to the Beaumont Area. They are Swazis and Maroccas. In the area I propose there are about 7 white people. It is between high and low-veld. It is low-veld along the Sabi. Seventy-five per cent. is low-veld. The other is medium. Natives who have been living on the high-veld will, I think, be content to live on the middel-veld in that area, but not along the Sabi.

It is very unhealthy along the Steelpoort, and farmers stay there only for the winter. I think a third more land can be irrigated along the left-bank. That is my opinion, even though you have heard evidence to the contrary. I think the kaffirs will be satisfied with their area even if they are excluded from the Steelpoort.

I understand there are 42,000 natives in the Beaumont Area, and 80,000 living outside. The additional area I recommend already contains 40,000, leaving 40,000 to be provided for. I think it would be a good thing to include the Steelpoort, but it might not be fair to the farmers. As it is our irrigable land is not sufficient.

There is a great deal of rust at this altitude, not much in the higher altitudes. We have had rust here for many years. Last year was a good corn year. There was rust the year before. In the last ten years we have had three good seasons. We have had heavy losses through rust. According to my experience of the last ten years this is not a wheat country. It would be good, I think, for cotton.

It is difficult for me to say what the value of land is on the left bank of the Steelport. I should say, however, £1 per morgen for the farms immediately bordering the river, and 7s. 6d. for the others would be a fair average—*i.e.*, those farms lying outside the Beaumont Area. The average value of the land inside the area is, in my opinion, about 2s. 6d. a morgen. Those farms within the area—northern portion—running from Calais to Derby, I value at about 1s. 6d. a morgen.

In the additional area which I recommend I value the ground at about 7s. 6d. The portion between the Klassurie and the Olifants I value at 3s. 6d. The farms are, for the most part, owned by the Government and by companies. Forty farms are Government-owned.

I have a great deal to do with natives. I think it better to give them one compact area and to avoid small black islands as much as possible. There would always be trouble otherwise.

The whole of the additional area I recommend is good for cattle and for kaffir sheep. Practically all of it is malarious except the middle-veld portion I have referred to.

I am not in favour of neutral areas. I don't think they are necessary and they will probably only cause trouble. It is better for the matter to be settled at once. I think the Government should give the natives adequate ground and so complete the matter.

Graskop, 23rd October, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and Commandant OPPERMAN.

also about 200 natives, with the following Chiefs: —Kobeni, Makhatlishe, Sitlari, Jantje, Njonjela (Ndwandwe), Magwagwaza (Shobiyana), Windvogel, Makuke, Matlulana, Diamond, Ngulube (Simon Masuku), Matibela, Nyabanyaba, Matches, Springhaan (Headman), Mtuswana (headman), and Sibamboyana.

DAVID MOKUENA:

I live at Frankfort No. 456 in the Pilgrim's Area. All the Chiefs and Indunas greet you to-day. We are very glad to see you amongst us together with our father, Colonel Damant. We have not much to say. We know the Act that was passed in 1913. We sent our people to England to fight this Act. We are pleased to see that one of the delegates is present amongst us to-day. He has been holding meetings to explain this matter to us, and all the Chiefs here have appointed him to explain and speak to the Committee. I have nothing more to add. There is only one man to speak.

SAUL MSANE:

I live at 9, Kruis Street, Johannesburg. I am a Zulu.

I am pleased to be before you. You spoke in your address (referring to the opening remarks of the Chairman, in which he explained the intent and purpose of the Bill), of the great principle established by Act 27 1913. I wish to remind you, Sir, that when that Act was passed we fought against it. I was one of the delegates sent to Cape Town to represent the case of the natives. We pointed out to Mr. Sauer, the then Minister for Native Affairs, that the Act pressed severely upon us and we asked that before the Act was passed a Commission should be sent round the country to ascertain the views of the natives. We asked the Government not to legislate in the dark, but the Government would not listen to what we said, and the Act was passed. The Government carried that law knowing well that it took away rights that we formerly possessed. We were astonished that such a thing should happen under the British flag. After this, certain men were chosen to go to England and make representations on our behalf. I am one of these delegates. Then the war spoiled everything. We did not care to press our case whilst our King was troubled by war. We suspended our agitation, but we have not dropped it. We mean to take it up again so soon as the war is over.

The principle established by the Act of 1913 is really a travesty of Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 12th May, 1843. It robs us of the rights we enjoyed under that Proclamation. We are surprised that rights given us by the English should now be taken away again. The war has proved that we are submissive. If we resist, it is because our great right was taken away from us.

You have come here to-day, Sir, to speak to these people of the land which will be given to them in various parts. These natives think this area will be given to them. But the Bill does not say that. It says they will be given the right to buy. But how are these natives here who have lost all their property to buy? I say that the authorities do not wish us to have a place where we can settle down quietly. Look at the matter of the registration of contracts before the Magistrate. Only those who have money with which to buy will go into the native area. The others will have to stay in the white area. Those who stay will find that the conditions under which they must reside are not the conditions to which we Bantu are accustomed. These conditions savour of slavery.

Again, take Section 16, Sub-section 17. You will see that the native is deprived of his wife and children. (The Chairman pointed out that the effect of the section was exactly the contrary). I am glad to hear you say that it is not so. I say it is not right to come to natives like these here to-day who do not understand what is being done, and to expect them to give an opinion on so complicated a matter. The Committees are meeting this class of people everywhere—the most primitive.

Under Section 147 of the Act of Union the Governor-General-in-Council is the supreme chief of the natives. What we ask is that the Governor-General-in-Council should meet all the natives and discuss this Act with them and tell them exactly what is being done. When I ask that we people should be able to settle down quietly I want also that we should live in harmony and help one another.

I refer again to Act 27 of 1913. Out of a total of 143,000,000 morgen within the whole Union Act 27 of 1913 provides only about 10½ millions for the natives. The Beaumont Commission has added, I think, another 8 1/3 millions, bringing it up roughly to 20 million morgen. That is for 4½ millions of natives. The white people who are 1¼ million, will have the rest. Can you rightly say that there is justice in that? It makes us think that you don't wish to help us, you want to destroy us. To put all these people and their increase in one small kraal! I have grown up under the British flag. I know how the British live and act. This is not the way they act. You are not doing justice to Great Britain.

You will see, Sir, that the Act provides for a South African Native Commission which will be over us, in other words, we shall be deprived of the protection of Parliament. Parliament will no longer be over us. You are taking away a right from us. Section 60 of the Act of Union provides that after a Bill has passed both houses the Governor-General may assent to it or reject it, or reserve it for the Imperial Parliament. Section 65 gives the King the right to alter a Bill after it has been assented to by the Governor-General. We went to England under that clause. Now it is proposed to rob us of that right. The law is unjust to us, it destroys us.

Then, again, we are to have a court of our own and not go to the judges of the Supreme Court. The court will consist probably of two magistrates or two commissioners, or sub-native commissioners. Here too, we are deprived of the protection given us by the Act of Union which provides that the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa shall be the highest court within the Union. There is no provision enabling us to appeal to that court. Do not then be surprised that we do not approve of the Bill. We cannot approve of it. Our prayer is that this Act 27 of 1913 be repealed and the Administration Bill be not proceeded with until after the war. Then when everything is settled a convention can be summoned of all the chiefs and leaders of the natives to meet the Governor-General-in-Council and evolve what you call a native policy. (The *Chairman* at this stage pointed out that the speaker was wrong in regard to the right of appeal).

We are very much afraid of this Bill. In the Free State now they are making women carry passes. We urge that the Government take no further action to have this Bill made law until our people have returned to this country from Europe and have had an opportunity of discussing the bill. We simply want the thing to drop until the war is over.

The *Chairman* at this stage dealt with the various points raised by the speaker and pointed out to the meeting the necessity for indicating the area they wanted.

SPRINKHAAN: Examined by Chairman.

I thank you very much, Sir, to-day. We are cattle and have come to the kraal. When I left Sekukuniland I came away from the big kraal. At that time there was no water there. Even now you hear that natives are leaving Sekukuniland because there is famine.

We discussed this matter with our people and they said to us: "When you go from here tell them we have no eyes, we are blind." The only eyes we have are the eyes of our Commissioner. He is the one to hear our grievances.

To-day our children are in England for the Government, and while they are away you come here and say you want to decide the matter of the ground that is to be given to us. I ask if this Bill is to become law while our children are still in England.

We are very sad when you say we must go away and look for other places in which to live. There are no other places to go to. Please assist us and let us remain where we are to-day.

Diamond was my chief, and when he died I buried him there where we live to-day. If I go away, the white people will come and plough up his grave. Diamond's last words to me when he died were: "Remain here where I shall be buried and look after my son."

I cannot say where the boundary ought to go. I wish the Commissioner to speak for me.

JONAS MAPOPE: Examined by Chairman.

I speak to endorse the words of Saul. We heard a little time back that there was another Commission which went round the country. When they went back to Parliament we heard what they said there. We saw that their recommendations were a great mistake. I think that is what Saul means. We stand here to-day and say again that those recommendations were a mistake, and I say the authorities make a mistake too in pressing this legislation. Now we hear there is another Commission that has come with good. I heard of this at my home in Spelonken.

All that Saul has said we think is right. I say that you should listen to what Saul has said. We don't say that the Government must not give us an area. But what we say is that we don't want the area at the back of beyond. We are not afraid of what is to-day, but of what is to come. You tell us that we will be well looked after by our Commissioners. If they were all like Colonel Damant here we should be satisfied. We support him in the matter of the areas. What we refuse is a small area.

I do not know what area to recommend.

I approve of the principle of territorial separation.

Colonel Damant here called upon the natives to say whether the area recommended by him was suitable or not, and proceeded: "I told you what area I recommended some time ago. I have been quite open with you. I shall tell the Commission what area I recommend and I want you to do the same thing. Get up and tell them what you think of that area which I recommended.

The area I recommended begins at a point on the Sabi River, thence down the Sabi River to the railway line, thence northwards along the railway line right up to the Olifants River, thence to the point of the Drakensberg at Kalaia, thence right along the edge of the Drakensberg to the Sabi River. Most of you here live in that area, and if that area is accepted, you will simply remain there and it will not be necessary to disturb you in any way. I want you to get up and tell this Commission whether the area is suitable; whether it is adequate for your requirements, and if it is not, then what other portion of the district you wish to have set aside.

That is the area on this side. There is a further area we have recommended to make provision for the natives at Elandsfontein. That line will strike from the area I have just mentioned just above Blyde River Poort, running this side of Elandsfontein, then up taking Rietvlei and Sterkspruit into the native area. Thence it runs round Klipfontein Hoek and Branddraai down to a point on Ardwick then in a straight line down to the Steelpoort River on the farm Practizeer.

Then we come to the area which I recommend, in addition to those I have mentioned, for the natives on the western side of the district. From there we come right up to the Olifants, down to the Steelpoort, thence along the western boundary of Sekororeni's location, coming down with the wire-fence to Ironstone. Then down past Drooghoek, Driekop, Aapiesboom, taking in the farm Steelpoortdrift to a point on the Steelpoort River, thence all along the Steelpoort River back to the boundaries of Practizeer.

I have told you what I have recommended. Now I want all those chiefs who are in sympathy with me and who are in favour of that area to say so. We have come here to-day to speak to you, and we want you to speak to us. We want you to open your hearts to us. Now is your opportunity. The Government has sent this Commission up here because you were not satisfied with the areas recommended by the previous Commission. So now I advise you to avail yourselves of this opportunity and tell the Commission what you think.

MATCHES: Examined by Chairman.

We were told about this land. They told us that the end was at the Steelpoort. They came to us living down in the low country and said: "speak up and say where you wish your area to be because Pilgrim's Rest belongs to the whites." We said that it should start from the Falls at Sabi and should come along the range of the Drakensberg, and from there to Belvedere. Thence down to the Blyde River taking in the whole of Buffelsfontein right to the Olifants River. That was to be for us natives and the area on top for the whites. We are suffering greatly at present because there is no freedom for our stock, and the Europeans in the low country take away our children and our wives too.

We are very thankful to the authorities. We are all black here and we are the children of the Government. We first started paying our tax under Paul Kruger. To-day we should like to settle down quietly and have an area for ever.

We are very pleased with our district officers for helping us. We are your dogs.

MATIBILA:

I am suffering. For I am not one to go mining. I was born in this country. I have been here always. This area they are speaking of, I do not know it. Even in one day I should not know this area they are speaking about. My grandfathers in the olden days lived in this country and I grew up here. I was frightened when I saw a whiteman building a house and afterwards I heard him say he had bought me. I am not a woman to be bought. I said: "it is a hard Government, but we will agree with one another." Afterwards he asked for my children. I gave them to him and they built his house and planted trees. After that he turned round and called me "damn" hitting my wife and child. It was my first wife and she cried for her child's sake. Then I grew angry. My heart said to me to go into my house and get my assegai, but I was afraid. I packed up and said I would go into Portuguese Territory.

All these people here are the women of Sekororeni. He is our big chief. I grew up with him, and used to carry the six white clusters. Before that my father used to go. I grew up and paid tribute to him. Now to-day our chief Sekororeni is killed, and his son is our big chief. I do not see him coming to visit us his wives. I do not know where he is or what has caused him to forget. But he was caught when he was very young and taught how to read and write. All that you want to do, yes, you will do it because we have no men. We thought we had two good chiefs. They also throw us away.

I am not pleased with what the Colonel has said. I shall be afraid to tell my wife. I am still heart-sore. I have not seen a way to freedom.

SITLARI:

I greet the authorities. I am about to go to the Front. I am very pleased to hear that we are to get an area. I should be very pleased to hear that we are to get the area recommended by Colonel Damant. There is only one thing more the Colonel should have done; that is, provide for the increase of our families in the time to come. The railway line in many places comes very close to the Berg. I should like the line to come along the lower side of Acornhoek following the eastern boundary of Jersey and Guernsey, thence direct to the railway line. That is all I have to say. Otherwise I am satisfied with the area recommended by Colonel Damant. We want the farmers out of that area.

SHOPIAN:

I am very thankful to see the Committee. I am dissatisfied with the area proposed by Sitlari. I should like the area to extend further north and include more farms than at present.

INDWANA:

I am very thankful for the area which has been recommended by Colonel Damant as a native area. It is a very hard thing when we have settled down that the white man should come and say to us: "I have bought this farm." Down in that part there is a lot of game and everywhere there are natives. We hope that the authorities will take down those notices.

I am a Mhlangaan. There will be some who will want to come and live with me, but I shall have no room for them because of those notices concerning game. That is all I have to say. I am satisfied with the railway as the eastern boundary of the area.

DAVID MOKUENA:

I am here representing Chief Kowiju. The chief has asked me to say that he falls outside the area recommended by Colonel Damant. Of all the natives here he is the only one who will have to move. He does not know where to go as he is not used to the low country. He wants to live and die where his father lived and died—on the farm Hermansburg. He is the only one who will have to pack up his things and go and look for a place where he may live. He asks to be allowed to remain where he is living to-day together with the natives that are under him.

The farm Hermansburg belongs to a company—the T.G.M.E. The adjoining farm London belongs to that company also. Diamond and Clearstream are Government farms.

I recommend that Hermansburg, Frankfort, and Boschhoek be included in the native area. (*Chairman*: There is a very great difficulty because these farms are scattered all over. Won't you confine your recommendation to London, Clearstream, Diamond, Hermansburg and Frankfort?) Very well, I shall limit my recommendation to what you suggest. I should not care to go to Hebron. My father lived there. I do not like it.

Colonel Damant called upon the natives who were in favour of his recommendations to stand up. All did so except Saul Msane, David Mokuena, Jonas Mapope, and Kowiju.

Pilgrims Rest, 23rd October, 1917. 3 *p.m.*

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and Commandant OPPERMAN.

ARTHUR HOLLAND MATTHEWS: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Pilgrim's Rest and am a land surveyor. I have lived here since January, 1908. I wish to speak only of the foothills below the Berg. I want to object to their being included in the native areas. I don't wish to speak generally to the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission; only if it should be extended further east or south-east of the Berg. The ground referred to is valuable for white settlement. I should say that not less than 10 of the farms in that section are personally and beneficially occupied by white men. On Champagne the owner, Mr. Travers, has done a lot in irrigation works and goes in for cattle ranching. About 100 morgen are under irrigation and the irrigation works cost about £1,000. Violetbank is worked by a company which is growing cotton. It is occupied by white men. There are other white men, but I can't say where they live exactly. There are traders scattered all over, and I include them in my estimate of 10. I can't say how many white men there are who are farmers in the strict sense. There are 23 farms in the area immediately south of the yellow lines on the map (the speaker here indicated the area along the edge of the Drakensberg bounded on the north by the farms Versailles, Ramanas, Wales, and Maviljan, and on the south by the farms Welkom, Rietspruit, Richmond, and Boschhoek). Of these, 10 are personally and beneficially oc-

cupied by white men. There are a good many natives in that area. The natives were there for a considerable number of years before the white farmers came. The white men have been there a considerable time too, at any rate, so far as 6 or 7 of them are concerned. The others have come since the war. The class of farming is mixed—stock and agriculture, tropical fruits. As to the average value of the 23 farms, some of them I should say are worth £4 per morgen, others are for sale at 30s. These farms are healthy. The area inside the yellow lines is fairly unhealthy (*i.e.*, the area shown on the map as proposed by district officers), but would become more and more healthy, in my opinion, by being occupied. I don't think it is as unhealthy as Spelonken. There are a fairly large number of natives in the area shown within the yellow lines. I think the ground in the eastern portion of that area is worth about £3 per morgen. I don't know the northern portion of that area, but possibly the ground there is worth 2s. 6d. a morgen. I have never been there and cannot say definitely.

You ask what should be done with the large number of natives in the area which I recommend should be excluded. They can either sit on the farms and work or shift to the portion of ground in the north of the district. I am not considering whether it is acceptable to the natives. I am considering only what is best in the interests of South Africa. The area between Klassurie and the railway line would be quite suitable country for them. I am told so. I think the area I recommend would accommodate the natives, that is, if they lived as closely together as white men. If the natives were allowed to settle on those farms at the foot of the Berg they would destroy all the trees. I think the whole of the area between the yellow lines is suitable for whites. I think that the game in the reserve should give way to either natives or white people.

PETRUS JOHANNES MEYER MUNRO: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Graskop, and have been in this district about 33 years. I am a farmer and mine-owner. Before giving evidence I should like to say that I have come here holding certain views with reference to this question and we are being catechised here on various little points. May I give you my opinion as to this area and the native question generally in my own way and without being questioned.

As regards the Beaumont Area, I cannot understand how the Beaumont Commission arrived at its decision to recommend that piece of ground as a reserve for fifty or sixty-thousand natives. I refer to the area under the Drakensburg from Calais to Derby (*i.e.*, between the Blyde and the Olifants), and the area which includes Mariepskop to the south and generally the area between the Steelpoort River on the west and the eastern boundary of the Beaumont Area. It is waterless and mountainous. It is at the present time carrying more natives than it can carry. To put another forty or fifty thousand natives in there is absurd.

My idea about the native area is this: I should take the line from the junction with the Olifants, thence following the river to where it cuts the yellow line on the map, thence northwards following the yellow line to Olifantsbergdrift. I have calculated roughly that you have in that area 260,000 to 300,000 morgen of ground. That will take a large population. You will ask questions about health conditions. I say that country is as healthy as anywhere else. Under present conditions it may be malarious. It is not the idea of the Government simply to shift the natives into the area. If the Government should decide upon an area such as I have described, they will find it a good area. If the Government want to place fifty or sixty thousand natives there they ought to clear the trees and make the country habitable for the natives just as was done on the Panama Canal. We are not overburdened with mosquitoes there. There are no swamps. The mosquitoes can easily be overcome. You will find that a lot of the farms belong to private people and the Government will have to expropriate. I don't think there are many minerals, though I know Mica has been found there.

We, as a community, look upon this law as only made for the eastern and northern Transvaal, because all the other natives in South Africa are segregated. The natives in Khamas Country, Basutoland, Transkei, and Zululand, all these are already segregated. Our own are not segregated. Thus the law is aiming at us. If our natives are to be placed in a reserve, then, to my mind, they should be given good soil, and not chucked like monkeys upon ground where they would have to look for insects to live upon.

We have various tribes of natives. Each tribe has its own customs and its own boundaries. How to place these? If they are put into a reserve, provision should be made that each tribe should be kept separate. Otherwise there would be nothing but trouble. It is not like in Secocoeni's Location where there is only one tribe.

By the Chairman.] I don't think the places where the natives now live were chosen by themselves. The native is not a pioneer in this country. It was only when Trichardt founded the town of Lydenburg that these natives came down here. They lived round about Lydenburg and Machadodorp.

The Bantu came originally from the north. The natives have lived here for a number of years, but not longer than the original white pioneers. Secocoeni came before the white pioneers. Where the natives live at present there are water-courses and the country is comparatively healthy. The value of land where they are living now is from

£1 to £3 per morgen, though that would depend upon the development of the farms. In the area I recommend the average value of the ground is about 20s.

I don't think the natives will be satisfied to leave their present abodes and live in the area I recommend. I have spoken to some very intelligent natives and have tried to make the position clear to them, but they don't want to leave. They want to remain where they are.

By Commandant Opperman.] When you go down from the Lulu Mountains there is good corn country. The country near Secocoeni's Oude Stad (Osjate) is such that it cannot carry any more natives.

It may be that in the Ohrigstad Valley the farmers have not enough water, but there is plenty of water below.

By the Chairman.] The whole of the area I recommend—or, at any rate, 90 per cent. of it, is arable and productive. Even under present conditions as to rainfall the soil there is productive, and you could produce normal crops there even if you have drought such as in the last 7 years.

ROBERT GARDINER: Examined by Chairman.

I have lived at Pilgrim's Rest for 20 years. I am a farmer and estate agent. I wish to give evidence on the Beaumont Area. I wish to bring to your notice that starting at Deintje No. 552 towards Secocoeniland the country is dry, and is unsuitable for natives. I cannot recommend anything as an alternative. I know that the Secocoeni natives are living in a dry country and, in my twenty year's experience, they rarely get any crops there. Farmers on the top of the Berg are continually carting mealies to Secocoeniland for sale. I think it is wrong to increase that area because it is a dry country and the Government should make some other provision for the natives where they can live on better lines than at present. In Secocoeniland they are exposed to very undesirable influences, and I fear that if this area as recommended by the Beaumont Commission is extended further east that those influences will be extended to the detriment of the natives.

I have a difficulty in suggesting any alternative scheme. I might find myself up against some European interests. I think that sacrifices ought to be made and that we ought to regard the question as a South African one rather than a merely district one. Still, I am not prepared to make any suggestion.

I am not acquainted with the country below the Berg. I am not prepared to say whether I would recommend that area or not. But what I do say is that we ought to make some reasonable and fair provision for the settlement of the natives.

I think that places where natives have lived for many years under tribal rule should be made natives areas.

I think that if a large number of natives (say, 150,000), have lived in a certain locality for a long time and there are a few white men, I think such an area might be declared a native area. Perhaps that view could be taken with regard to the area which Mr. Matthews has recommended should be excluded from the native area. I do not think, however, that any great hardship would be created by asking the natives in that particular locality to move.

The average value of land in the northern part of the game reserve is very little. I should not like to pay 10s. for it. The value of the farms along Bushbuck Ridge and thereabouts varies from 30s. to £2 10s.

Probably the natives on Bushbuck Ridge would not care to move to the game reserve. (*Chairman*: Do you think it would be fair to move the natives from Bushbuck Ridge to the game reserve? To uproot them wholesale would not be fair). The soil in the reserve is sandy so far as I know. It is very good at Bushbuck Ridge.

I know that a very large number of natives live within the yellow lines marked on the map. I think they ought to be provided for, but I won't give any opinion as to where they should be provided for.

I think it is absurd to expect a native to pay the £7 a year, which, under the bill, he would have to pay in order to be allowed to squat in the white area.

There is difficulty even now in collecting £2 a year from them. It is almost impossible.

The cost of living of a native family of five, I should say, is about £15 a year.

I cannot say what the rainfall is in the game reserve.

I don't know how much of the land in the game reserve between the Klassierie and the Olifants is arable. Along Bushbuck a good deal of ground is arable. It is good soil. There is a large native population there.

[F.G. 32—'18.]

Farm Champagne, District Lydenburg, 24th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

The CHAIRMAN and Commandant OPPERMAN.

JOHN EDWARD DE LA COURT TRAVERS: Examined by Chairman.

I live on Champagne No. 247, and am a Farmer and Land Agent. I have been in this district 21 years, and in this particular locality since the Peace—1902. My principals are the Transvaal Estate and Development Co., also a number of private owners. In my capacity of agent I collect rents from natives. The farms for which I am agent extend north of Bushbuck Ridge to the Olifants River, with the Klassurie as my eastern boundary. The number of rent-paying squatters on the Company's farms is 1,187 men, 1,854 women (some of whom are paid for by men), 483 youths—total 1,670 rent-payers. They pay from 10s. upwards. Widows pay 10s. Young women pay £1, the men pay £2 for first wife, 10s. for every additional wife. Unmarried men pay £1. The distinction is made because unmarried men use up less ground than married men, their requirements being less. The altitude of this farm is about 2,300 feet. On the farm Boston No. 675 it is probably from 1,500 to 1,700 feet. About there the rainfall is very low—not sufficient to carry a native population. I can't say exactly how much. Natives won't settle there because there is not much rain. It might have averaged 10 to 15 inches within the last three years.

There are no farms under my control in the area on the edge of the berg and south of the yellow line on the map (*i.e.*, the area Maviljan—Versailles—Welkom—Sandford). Only a few of my farms are outside the area marked yellow—that is of farms which are occupied at the present time. There are thirty farms within that area. Of these last, one, Casteel, is personally and beneficially occupied by Europeans. It is worked by a Company, and cotton is being cultivated. The Company carries on its own operations and has a manager.

I am fairly conversant with land values, and have made it my business to ascertain the value of land in this area. Without considering improvements, every farm with running water upon it is worth £1 per morgen. The class of farming for which this part of the country is best suited is cattle and citrus. The grazing is good both in summer and winter. Sheep have not been brought down here, but they would probably do well. Native goats would do well if they were properly managed. They would want dipping.

I say that wherever there is running water the ground is worth £1 per morgen. That condition occurs practically all the way from north of Bushbuck Ridge to the farm Bedford 366. The ground there is worth £1 per morgen, because of the water and good grazing. The rainfall is also sufficient to grow crops—maize and kaffir corn.

I consider that mealies could be successfully grown on the area between Maviljan and Kasteel. It is true the natives in that region do not cultivate mealies extensively, but they could if they liked. Some years they cultivate more than others. Most of the cultivation is done by hand-hoeing. Wherever you find a native with stock you will find that extensive areas are ploughed. The nature of the soil is light and sandy. It is suitable for citrus, which does very well. Cotton does fairly well. Most of the land has been neglected—overworked by the natives and not refertilised.

The natives have lived here for a considerable time—nearly two generations or a century. It is difficult to get historical evidence on the point whether the white man was a pioneer or not. I hardly think he was a pioneer here. I think it would be correct to say that the native was the first occupant, but only in a small degree. This land within the yellow lines is very largely and extensively occupied by natives.

As agent for my Company and as interested in land settlement I have considered the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission. I know the area recommended by that Commission. I do not think that area is sufficient. I don't know the whole of the area, only the eastern portion. I do not know Sekukuniland. So far as the eastern portion is concerned I am satisfied that the area would not be sufficient. A portion of it is suitable. But the further north you go the less rain you get, and there are practically no natives settling there for that reason.

I am afraid I have not thought seriously of recommending a possible native area. It seems to me that whatever land you allot to-day you will have to allot more in another ten years time.

I am not prepared to recommend that the natives who live in my area should be accommodated there. That area is almost exclusively occupied by natives, it is here, and, as I have said, they have lived there for two generations. But having regard to the future of the white people of the country I think the country is capable of a very much better degree of development than making it a native area. I think it is a wrong policy to build a railway line through a country and then close it. Another difficulty is that the eastern side of the railway line is the Sabi Game Reserve.

I agree that it is not wise where you have a large settled community of natives to disturb them to make room for white men, but I think the great majority of the farms in this area could be taken up and settled by white people without disturbing the natives.

Natives do not seem to know anything of fixity of tenure. They prefer rent-paying. Therefore I think the native prefers to be free so far as occupation of land is concerned. If you mean that a native would feel greater security if he had some fixity of tenure as against the native who is merely a labour tenant resident on a farm at the pleasure of the white man, I agree, but it probably very largely depends upon the white man.

The natives here are living under tribal conditions and tribal authority.

I consider that the value of the land in the neighbourhood of Boston is 5s. per morgen. I think £1 would be excessive. 5s. would be a fair average price. That valuation is not based on demand but on what would be the price if the land came into the market to-day.

There are eight white farmers in the neighbourhood of Bushbuck Ridge. They are living there personally, and working the farms themselves. Two of them are native traders. The class of farming is cattle principally.

It is very difficult to say what the value is of the improvements made on their respective holdings. I would rather not say. I am sure at any rate that all of them have spent more than £400.

The natives within the yellow area belong principally to two tribes—the Basuto and Shangaan. The latter come chiefly from Portuguese territory. They still come in and out. They come in for various reasons, very often domestic affairs.

The Shangaans are really a lowland people. They like places with plenty of wood. The soil is tilled by the women chiefly. The men very largely go out to work on the mines. I should say that roughly about 70 per cent. of the men are always away, leaving the women to till the soil during their absence.

I should not care to express an opinion on neutral areas. I should like to have time to consider.

A fair number of natives go out to work for farmers—but only a small proportion not more than 5 per cent. They are paid wages which are £2 for a boy worth anything at all.

By Commandant Opperman.] I know the country in the game reserve. I think it is too large. I should prefer to see a portion of the game reserve given to the natives, but I don't think the land up to the Klassurie is suitable. There is a lot of good soil in the reserve along the low country rivers. There is a fair amount of fever.

The country south of Edinburgh is good, also east of Edinburgh. It is well watered, and has great capabilities.

By the Chairman.] The country is too undulating, and the rivers too low-lying to admit of irrigation where there is running water. My own irrigation scheme cost me about £1,700.

In the northern part of the area the Blyde, the Olifants, and the Klassurie are all perennial, and capable of irrigation—not on a large scale, however, on the Klassurie. As to the Olifants, I think a portion of each farm riparian to the river from London to Cambridge could be placed under irrigation.

I think the game reserve too large, and that it is locking up good country. I think it is necessary to extend the Beaumont Area, but having regard to our future needs in respect of white settlement I should like to see the additional area extend more in the direction of the reserve, in a line directly east from Ohrigstad to Jenkpenthock, thence in a direct line north to the Olifants River. This reserve did carry a population at one time, but they were shifted. Perhaps it might be better to make the eastern boundary of the area I propose follow the Umbabati up to the Olifants.

By Commandant Opperman.] I think that country a good one for the natives.

By the Chairman.] In the area I have just mentioned I think the average value of the ground is about 10s. right through. I cannot give the average rainfall. In some years it is quite good. I don't think the Basutos would be content to move into that area, but the Shangaans might. The area I have in mind is malarious. So is the area within the yellow lines. The population I gave you just now was only on one Company's farms. The grand total on the farms under my control is 2,159 rent-paying males. The number of souls is 13,618. Polygamous marriages are much indulged in. The average number of wives to one man is two, but many have ten. One has a dozen wives and a village of children. The average family number is five.

I can give no exact figures as to mortality. Infantile mortality is very high. They are very backward people, and have shown no indication of moving along lines of individualism. A native who has once occupied ground on some sort of individual tenure, especially Government ground, likes to go back there. But the thing is too new here to form any opinion.

The country near the Klassurie is very much like the country here on the farm Champagne, but it opens out a little, and is not so undulating.

Upper Sand River,
P.O. Acornhoek,
Via Komati Poort,
October 25th, 1917.

Messrs. Stubbs and Opperman,
Native Land Commission Committee,
Komati Poort.

Gentlemen,—

I take the opportunity of your being in the vicinity to add the few following remarks, which possibly you will allow, although of no great merit, to be added to my evidence.

I feel that one or two points in my evidence are not quite clear without this letter.

Land Values. I find that the farm Boston has a permanent stream upon it. This quite alters its value, which under the circumstances would make it worth 15s. per morgen.

You also asked me the value of Maviljan at Bushbuck Ridge, which I gave at £1 per morgen. Both of these farms are at the extremities of the land I represent, and it occurs to me that you may consider that I value all the intervening land at the same price.

Although I gave £1 per morgen as the average of unimproved land carrying good grazing and permanent running streams, this I would consider a minimum price, and would not take into account any farms having irrigation facilities or forest land.

The majority of the farms having Berg frontage carry valuable forests of heavy timber (such as the Knysna and Woodbush), and would require special valuation.

Date of Native Tenure.—You asked me if there was any direct evidence as to the length of time natives had been in occupation of this area.

To this I replied that it was probably not more than two generations, but that the Shangaans had come into the country during my period of residence here.

I don't know if the latter part of the answer was included in my evidence, but the Shangaan population, I would like to emphasise, who now number many thousands, have almost entirely come in since I first commenced to reside here.

In the period immediately after the Boer War the Basutos principally resided in the foothills, and the Shangaans on the lower-lying flats. Both tribes have enormously increased, by an influx of adults from other territory and districts, particularly on the farms I have been agent for, and during the past fifteen years.

Basutos and peoples of Zulu descent have come here from Natal, Basutoland, and other people from even as far away as Nyasaland.

Neutral Area. With a view to the future settlement of Europeans in this country I would suggest that a strip of country several farms wide be reserved for this purpose between the Mitlasen River and the Sabi River. In this connection I would ask you to kindly note that the climate, soil, altitude and vegetation through the strip of country named are precisely similar to the country in the vicinity of Nelspruit and Karino, both of which are also malarious, and even in my time were considered by the general public to be so unhealthy as to be quite unfit for white occupation.

Citrus culture has become quite an established industry, and land is already at a high price.

I recently attempted to buy land at Nelspruit, for which £25 per acre was asked. This was land capable of irrigation, but without any constructed irrigation works.

I could name a farm in the vicinity of Nelspruit which to-day probably could not be bought for £50,000, yet this same farm in my recollection would not have been graded very much ahead of some of the land in this vicinity.

I mention these facts in the hope that you will endorse my view that any land capable of development, especially that in the vicinity of a railway, can be more advantageously utilised by European settlement (which in view of what other portions of the low veld are already doing cannot be far off), than by its permanent alienation for a native reserve.

I trust you will kindly allow these remarks to be embodied in my evidence, and apologise for the length of this letter.

Your visit unfortunately had to be so hurried that there was no opportunity to have gone into the matters named more fully at the time.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J. E. D. TRAVERS.

Farm Maviljan, Bushbuck Ridge, District Lydenburg, 24th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and Commandant OPPERMAN.

CHRISTIAN BYERLEY: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer and trader, and live on the farm Maviljan. I have two trading stations, one here and one on the farm Champagne. I have been in this part of the country for 15 years, but have only farmed for the last few years. I have been trading principally—all native trade. I have a fairly wide experience of this part of the country. My farm was a Government farm. I took it up from the Government, and it was valued at that time at 7s. 6d. per morgen. The majority of Government farms about here are valued at 5s. per morgen, and sold at that price. My ground is not better than others. A man was sent down to value it, and I heard afterwards that he valued it at 4s. They were not satisfied with that valuation, and sent another man down. He never came here, but fixed the value at 7s. 6d., which I am paying.

The farms on Bushbuck Ridge lying to the west are fairly well watered in the sense of having several rivers, but the rivers are low lying, and cannot be used to any great extent for irrigation. The river here only goes through a small portion of the farm. I can only irrigate 10 morgen. The other farms through which the river runs don't, I think, get any more than that. They seem to be lower lying there than here. The character of the country is such that the streams are not capable of being applied to any expensive use for irrigation purposes. In the area immediately below the Berg the following farms are occupied, viz., Maviljan, Waterfall, Injaka, Marits, Diepdritt, Beestekraalspruit, and Versailles. These farms are being seriously worked as farming propositions. Diepdrift, however, has only just started. Occupation is comparatively recent, and averages about eight years. I could not give the rainfall in the area referred to. These farms are occupied to a large extent by natives. They are labour tenants on the farms occupied by Europeans, rent-payers on the others. These farms belong chiefly to companies. The companies let the farms to the natives.

I have never been beyond the Sand River, and do not know the area beyond. I could not say what the value is of the farms Champagne, Rooiboklaagte, Kasteel and Arthur's Seat. I do not know the rainfall on Bushbuck Ridge, or in the neighbourhood of Champagne.

The country between the railway line and the Beaumont line is largely occupied by natives—that is between the yellow lines marked on the map. The natives were here before I came here. I came here first in 1897, and the natives had been here then for some considerable time. A lot were brought out of the game reserve.

The farms riparian to the Sabi within the yellow lines I value at between 5s. and 7s. 6d. a morgen. They are much lower. I can't say whether they are healthy or not. I know they have fever, but it is a good stock country, and a good agricultural country in parts. The southern portion of the area between the yellow lines in the direction of Sabi is very dry. As to whether the Beaumont Area is sufficient to accommodate the 121,000 natives in this district, I cannot express any opinion as to the western portion of that area, but I certainly think that the 42,000 natives residing within the yellow lines cannot be accommodated in that portion of the Beaumont Area adjoining. I cannot suggest any suitable area.

The altitude of Bushbuck Ridge is 2,600 feet. Champagne, I think, is 600 feet lower.

The soil in the Bushbuck Ridge locality is suitable for maize, oats and citrus, principally citrus. One-eighth of the Bushbuck Ridge area is, in my opinion, cultivable and productive. In the neighbourhood of Champagne practically the whole of the country can be cleared for cultivation. Between Maviljan and Champagne the soil is sandy clay, and on the ridges there is loam. In the low lying parts you get sand. The latter is not suitable for anything but monkey-nuts, kaffir millet, and kaffir beans. That country is typical of the rest of the country up to Olifants River. There may be more sandy soil than loam, but I have not taken particular notice.

I am not in a position to say what further area might be added to the Beaumont Area, but I feel that the natives in this part of the district ought to be provided for. I think it would be sound policy to cause them as little disturbance as possible in respect of their present places of abode. If you have to move all these natives there will be a lot of trouble.

Of the natives in the area I have just been speaking of, some who would welcome the opportunity of moving into a native area rather than pay the £7, they would be called upon to pay under the Bill. The majority of those who have worked as labourers on farms would prefer to stay and work.

I should object to any scheme for the extension of the Beaumont Area which took my place into the area.

I do not think I should be prejudiced by living in the native area. I do not think there would be any prejudice to the white people living under the Berg if their area were

included in the native area, that is, not if they were paid the price they put upon their farms.

I do not think the natives on Bushbuck Ridge and west from the Bushbuck Ridge to the Sabi would be content to live in the area between the Klissuni and the Beaumont line, or that the natives in the southern portion of the district would be content to move to the extreme northern portion. It would be like taking you out of the house you were born in and your fathers were born in. These natives have lived here for so many years, I am sure they would not like to leave it. I don't know how many years they have lived here. Some of them have come from Portuguese East Africa and Swaziland.

There is a great deal of Veld erosion here just now. The soil is very easily worn away.

The Bushbuck Ridge locality is more middle-veld than anything else. It is about 2,000 feet lower than Graskop.

By Commandant Opperman.] I think something should be added to the Beaumont Area in order to provide for all the natives in the district. It is not too unhealthy where I am living for natives to live.

I think the ground in my neighbourhood is suitable for natives from the point of view of fertility. The natives came into this country before the whites, so far as I know. The Mhlangaans came first, and then the Shangaans. The Mhlangaans came from Portuguese East Africa.

I cannot recommend any area because I do not know the whole district.

By the Chairman.] Apart from my own personal objections I think the Bushbuck Ridge area would be suitable and adequate together with the area between the yellow lines.

I am not in favour of neutral areas. It is postponing the evil day.

Pilgrim's Rest, 25th October, 1917.

Present:

Chairman, Commandant Opperman and Mr. Boltman.

RICHARD ALAN BARRY: Examined by Chairman.

I am a mining engineer and general manager of the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, residing at Pilgrim's Rest. I have occupied that position for two years. I know this locality, and I know something of the area lying east and south-east of Pilgrim's. There are some 29 farms under my control lying below the Berg in the direction of Bushbuck Ridge. My company has held these farms since the "nineties." I think they were acquired from white men—individuals not the Government—but I can't say definitely.

Of these 29 farms, one is actually occupied by a European, viz., Roodewal No. 531, which is occupied by the lessee, Ingle. The lease is for 5 years. The rental paid is £60 per year. A number of farms are leased but without anyone living upon them. They are leased only for winter grazing. There are natives on these farms. There were no natives on Roodewal when we first let it, but there are a considerable number now. They are labour tenants. I did not engage them, the lessee makes his own arrangements. There are natives living on all the other farms. They are rent-paying squatters and pay rent according to the number of wives they have. The native with one wife pays £1, with two wives £2, and he undertakes to work for us 6 months in the year at ordinary mining rates, *i.e.*, at a rate of pay ranging from 30s. to 60s. per month. The farms are a sort of reservoir of labour for our mines. We look to these farms for a certain fixed quantity of labour. It works very satisfactorily. The natives are quite content with this arrangement. We employ all the labour which is made available in this way.

My company owns 29 farms, of which the total extent is 87,000 morgen. I am not prepared to say what their value is. As general manager I control certain other farms not owned by the company. These last would be about 6 or 7. They are close round the edge of the Berg. Some of them are on top. Two of our farms are below the Berg, five under our control are there also.

We should be considerably prejudiced if there were any disturbances of the conditions of occupation by natives as a consequence of their being required to move from above the Berg to areas some distance away. I mean so far as labour is concerned. We get something more than 1,000 boys from our farms out of a total of 3,000 boys working on the mines.

I shall put in a list of the farms below the Berg which we own and control.

It is difficult to say what the value is of Waterhoutboom and Roodewal. A man approached us to buy Waterhoutboom. The price discussed was 45s. The tendency is to overvalue all farms down there to-day. They have large timber possibilities, but the timber is really worth nothing as you can't get it out. I think a fair value would be

about 30s. for Waterkantboom. That farm is typical in soil and character. The further you go away from the Berg the value of ground distinctly and very rapidly decreases. Roodewal, Modderspruit and Waterval progressively decrease in value. Roodewal is an improved farm. It is not so much the variance in the soil that causes the value to decrease, but rather the decrease in rain-fall. A good deal further away from the Berg the soil does become poorer. As far as Roodewal the soil is about the same.

I know something about the quality of soil. I have not been as far as Arthur's Seat and Rooiboklaagte, and so cannot describe the soil there, but I know that all the formation thereabouts is granite and that the soil is "granite detritus." It is quite good for citrus, but for little else. It might be good for monkey-nuts. It is not really a place where one would care to grow much. Agriculturally, I think the country below the Berg between the yellow lines is of very little value. It is difficult for me to value it, but I should say the value is extremely low, say, 2s. or 3s. I don't think £1 per morgen is a fair value. You can't get a return on £1 per morgen, even if you put cattle there. The country round about Bluebank, Glencoe, Epsom and Madrid is, in my opinion, of no greater value than the farms within the yellow lines.

This country is quite unhealthy. It is bad in the plains, but not so bad on the slopes. Down towards the Sand River I should say it is very unhealthy.

In the southern part of the area between the yellow lines I should say that the value of the ground is not more than 2s. 6d. The soil is the same as up north—granite detritus. Granite soil is poor. There is no diabase.

So far as cattle are concerned the country may carry a certain number. I have a cattle ranch there of my own and have followed it pretty carefully, and my company experiments with cattle. In my experience that is a very unhealthy country for cattle imported into the district. The percentage of loss is very heavy. I have tried everything—inoculated them, dipped them, but all to no purpose. You would have a job trying to establish cattle there. Local cattle seem to stand it very well. If you brought native cattle from Pietersburg to this area you would stand a good chance of losing a great number of them. The only cattle that are inured are those that are bred here. I have actually tried it. Cattle, once they are acclimatised, would do quite well, one to every 12 morgen. I am speaking now of the country round about Kildare. Kildare is typical of the rest of the area.

I know something of the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. I am fairly well acquainted with conditions in the Lydenburg district. I do not think that the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission is adequate. It can't possibly feed the natives in the district. The area is not suitable. The natives can't exist there. The rain-fall is very poor. Guessing at it, I should say it is about 8 or 10 inches a year. The reason why I say the area can't support the natives is that I know that at the present time you have to send mealies to the natives who are already there. That, in itself, is definite proof. Very rarely do they succeed in maintaining themselves.

The soil in the northern part of the Beaumont Area is exceedingly poor, and the ground is ragged and mountainous. There are little basins where something will grow. More than half of the Beaumont Area excluding Tieluk's Location is, in my opinion, rugged and mountainous.

So far as providing an additional area for the natives is concerned and creating as little disturbance as possible, it seems to me that if you are to accommodate the natives and do the fair thing you must stick along the edge of the Berg as far as possible. You have a definite physical division there. I don't know who is going to live away out to the south of the area between the yellow lines.

In the area between the yellow lines there are no more than 50 white men, mostly men who are not living with white women. They are mostly storekeepers. The farming is very haphazard. It is an existence there rather than a living. If that area were fixed upon there would be very little disturbance of white interests. The farms under the Berg are certainly the best in relation to the area falling away from the Berg. Where you get a large number of natives occupying, I think it is a good guide to the value of the soil. The chances of crops are distinctly better under the Berg. I think the area between the yellow lines, having regard to the present occupation of it by natives, would be a fair and reasonable area to add to the Beaumont Area. I do not attach much value to the southern part of this additional area even for native occupation. The greater number of natives will settle immediately under the Berg. The narrow strip just under the Berg would not be sufficient. The area should extend towards the railway line. The further you get away from the Berg the less chance there is of carrying any material number of people.

I am a South African, and am fairly well acquainted with natives and conditions generally all over South Africa.

Bushbuck Ridge and the hills round about there are what we call the foothills of the Berg. Bushbuck Ridge is healthy, but not so healthy as on the Berg. It is healthy in relation to the country further south. The southern part of the area between the yellow lines is distinctly unhealthy.

There are no further projected lines of railway so far as I know below the Berg.

By Mr. Boltman.] I know the Sand River. There is very little possibility of irrigation. The river is too weak and there is a very small fall.

The Blyde River is a fairly decent river. There is not very much ground suitable for irrigation.

By Commandant Opperman.] I have never been under Bushbuck Ridge. I know the country as far as Bushbuck Ridge. I don't know Maritz farm.

By the Chairman.] I am not in favour of neutral areas. If you are going to face the question it is better to face it once and for all.

Apart from the fact that a certain number of people who own ground in a native area and who have been fairly progressive are going to lose; I don't think you are going to hurt people very much if you expropriate their ground on fair lines. The scheme practically forces the white man to sell and the ground will be of no use to him. The tendency will be to push his price down.

The natives preceded the white man in the occupation of the area between the yellow lines. They are a crowd of remnants and have been here, I think, for two or three generations.

I find that from the point of view of labour these natives are an asset. They are not of a very high class stamp, but we are very glad to have them.

In settling natives near established places you have to consider what sort of people they are. There is, I believe, a lot of disease in Sekukuniland. In developing from there to the east you would spread the disease.

Nothing is being done to combat the disease. I think that wherever you find cases of disease you must have them treated until they are better. Some such institution is necessary like the one at Blaauwberg. You frequently find boys coming to the mines with disease. They are a danger to white people.

The altitude at Pilgrim's Rest is 4,359 feet. At my office at Graskop it is 4,880, at Waterhoutboom 3,300. The drop from Bushbuck Ridge to the next plateau is 1,000 feet.

"C."

26th October, 1917.

"*Re Evidence—R. A. Barry.*"

"Attached please find a list showing the farms below the escarpment of the Drakensberg and lying between the Olifants River on the north of the Sabie River in the south."

(*a*) Directly owned or controller by the Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Limited, of which company I am the general manager.

(*b*) Those farms owned or controlled by the Transvaal Consolidated Lands and Exploration Co., Limited, with which company we are very closely associated.

"A"—T. G. M. E., Ltd.

Waterhoutboom, No. 523; Roodeval, No. 531; Vaderslandwilgeboom, No. 533.

"B"—T. C. L. & E. Co., Ltd.

Welkom, No. 727; Grovedale, No. 1019; Inyoku, No. 1637; Parsons, No. 310; Happyland, No. 186; Welverdiend, No. 185; Acornkoek, No. 670; Zuikerkop, No. 367; Boston, No. 675; Moskow, No. 759; London, No. 1339; Northampton, No. 128; Elgin, No. 1320; Avoca, No. 498; Fife, No. 1319; Argyle, No. 788; Peru, No. 753; Rothesay, No. 1318; Hermitage, No. 449; Kingstown, No. 728; Toulon, No. 729; Charleston, No. 719; Flockfield, No. 415; Alma, No. 453; Ceylon, No. 452; Rabalais, No. 451; Roodeval, No. 858; Ceylon, No. 750; Goedevonden, No. 1168; Mooiplaats, No. 1170; Boomplaats, No. 862; Gladstone, No. 388; Perthall, No. 722; Strangersrest, No. 451; Gascony, No. 952; Strasburg, No. 1251; Besancon, No. 1250; Metz, No. 221; Fieldhead, No. 1139; Modena, No. 826; S'Hertogenbosch, No. 699; Schiedam, No. 698.

WILLIAM DYKE-POYNTER: Examined by Chairman.

I am mining commissioner for the district of Lydenburg, and Acting A.R.M. for the sub-district of Pilgrim's Rest. I have been stationed here for 4 years. I have been in South Africa 18 years. Before coming here I was mining commissioner at Ottoshoop and Barberton, and have come into touch with natives a good deal. I have held judicial positions at two of these stations.

I know the country round about Pilgrim's Rest pretty well.

I know the Beaumont Area. I consider it is neither suitable nor adequate for the needs of the native population of this district plus their increase for the next ten years to come. Some of the north-western portion of the area comprising the location would be suitable for the natives living there. Sekukuniland would, I think, provide for the natives there at present and their increase for the next ten years. The character of that country excluding the location is undulating, very rugged and rocky. It is very rugged and useless between the Steelpoort and the Drakensberg range. But my knowledge of this part of the country is limited in comparison with the country immediately round Pilgrim's Rest.

The area recommended by the Beaumont Commission should be added to, in my opinion, to provide for the natives in my sub-district. I think the area recommended by the district officers a suitable area for such extension. I would include Bushbuck Ridge. It offers bigger opportunities to the natives to make some progress in agriculture. Down south the natives would exist on very small patches.

On the farm Champagne, as the result of a large expenditure in the past year, a canal has been brought down and many citrus trees planted. The owner hoped to treble his income within the next five years. He paid 7s. 6d. per morgen for the farm. It was a Government farm. The total improvements on the farm amount, so far as I can judge, to £1,500. The purchase price would be roughly another £2,000. If the citrus is successful I think the owner will recover interest on that sum within the next five years. There are 1,500 citrus trees, and they will produce within 3 or 4 years from now. Mealies grow well in that region in good seasons. Cotton has been grown on the adjoining farm Kasteel. In the last year a profit has been shown. I think the soil there is useful for cotton. For mealies it is not so good. Cotton shows a better prospect.

Leaving out Bushbuck Ridge and the farms immediately below the Berg, I should value the land within the area I recommend from a point on the Sand River to the Sabi River at 5s. to 7s. 6d. a morgen or, perhaps, a little more at the present time. That area is largely occupied by natives. Most of the natives are there. The southern portion is occupied by natives fairly extensively. There are twelve white men in that area, of whom 8 are storekeepers. Five combine farming with trading, four farm seriously.

The owner of Champagne does not confine himself to farming. He is a company agent, representing several companies.

Most of the farms within the area I propose are Government farms. The others are owned by companies The country excluding Bushbuck Ridge is malarious. Agriculturally the country is poor. There are possibilities of irrigation and citrus growing, and there are spots, particularly Kasteel, where the cotton industry may be fostered. There is no irrigation on Kasteel except on a small portion on the eastern side. I cannot say what the rainfall is at Kasteel.

Compared to Kasteel, Maviljan, on the Bushbuck Ridge, is fairly healthy. There is some malaria at Maviljan. The native is more inured to malaria than the white man.

So far as my enquiry has gone, I should say the natives have occupied this country for two generations. They filtered in from Portuguese East Africa and Swaziland and from all directions. There are restrictions on the importation of natives from Portuguese East Africa. They become a sort of floating quantity going backwards and forwards. The restrictions are ineffective.

By Commandant Opperman.] I know where Mr. Byerley lives on the farm Maviljan. I think it is fairly healthy there, but not so healthy as on top of the Berg.

I know where Maritz lives on Injaka, the adjoining farm. I have no reason to doubt that he produced 400 bags of mealies there last year.

There are five spruits between the Berg and Bushbuck Ridge—permanent streams coming from the Berg. The water from three of them, Beestekraal Spruit, Modderspruit and the Mtishi, can, I think, be used to irrigate. I cannot say how much land can be brought under irrigation. Out of Beestekraalspruit, I think, more land could be irrigated than at present.

On Champagne I cannot say how many morgen can be placed under irrigation. I think there are further possibilities of taking out furrows from the Sand River. The flow is strong enough.

By the Chairman.] In order to be effective a scheme of irrigation on the Sand River would have to be state-aided. It would not be within the means of the average settler in that part of the country. I can give no idea how much of the country could be placed under irrigation by such a scheme. I cannot say either how much of the country would be productive.

I should not be prepared to say that the rivers between the Berg and Bushbuck Ridge are so low lying that it is not within the means of the average farmer to irrigate from them. It has repaid Byerley, the owner of Maviljan.

I think there are possibilities near Beestekraalspruit of bringing land under irrigation. It is not within the means of the average farmer to bring any fairly large area under irrigation. Some capital support—private or Government would be required as on the Sunday's River.

By Commandant Opperman.] The water runs strongly in the streams which come down from the Berg. Furrows can be taken out more easily when the flow is strong.

The nature of the soil between Bushbuck Ridge and Champagne is granite, sand-veld. This sand-veld is useful for cattle in winter. Cotton, citrus, and monkey-nuts, will grow there.

I do not know the Klissuni or the Game Reserve.

OSCAR HERMAN FERDINAND NIEMEYER: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Pilgrim's Rest and have been in the district for nearly twelve years, partly in Lydenburg, partly in Pilgrims, and partly in the Middle Veld between the Berg and

Bushbuck Ridge, on the farm Modderspruit. I carried on general farming on Modderspruit. The country there, so far as agriculture is concerned, is no good. It is granite soil which contains only a moderate amount of organic matter. I have had letters from the agricultural chemist, to whom I submitted samples of soil for analysis from different parts of the farm. His report was that there was a moderate and fair amount of organic matter. He did not say what the soil might be suited for. He said it was very much deficient in phosphoric lime.

I lived on the farm for 4 years. In my opinion, citrus and tobacco farming might be successful in that part. Tobacco requires water, but I did my watering by hand. There is water there, but it is too deep to raise without an expenditure beyond the means of the average farmer. Nor could it be taken out by furrows higher up.

In my opinion the value of that farm, even with the best improvements upon it, would not be more than 10s. per morgen. I don't think that is too little. It is good for sheep in winter but not in summer, and good for cattle in summer, but not in winter. The grass is too dry. There is no nutrition in the grass. The average rainfall would be about 40 inches.

The rainfall in the northern part of the district towards the Olifants is heavier at times than on Bushbuck Ridge. I know this by watching the weather. The rain belt seems to draw towards the Drakenberg. This follows the line of the mountain. There is more rain along the mountain than on the flats.

I don't know the altitude of Graskop. Something like 5,000 feet. Bushbuck Ridge might be 1,000 feet lower.

By Mr. Boltman.] I don't know the country in the Beaumont Area. I only know the country between the yellow lines towards the east. The soil there is very poor, and very poorly supplied with water. There is no opportunity of getting water on any of the farms thereabouts except at great expense. Water cannot be got out of the Sand River except perhaps by damming it. I have not seen the furrows taken out by Mr. Travers. If the country bordering on the Sand River were put under water it would be good, too good for natives. Between the Berg and Bushbuck Ridge the soil is poor. Beyond that northwards it is good cattle country. It is very malarious, but too good for natives if you can irrigate.

By the Chairman.] Where you can irrigate the native should always give way to the white man, so as to open up the country. I am not prepared to say where the native should be put. I think the country hereabouts should be opened up for white men. Where there are irrigation schemes I think it is only right that the native should give way to the white man and live in the drier parts. The native does not cultivate the ground as a white man does. I do not know of any white man working the ground scientifically in that area. The white man in that area is primarily a storekeeper, and, secondly, a farmer. If you got the right type of farmer down there it would be an excellent country, notwithstanding the fact that you cannot irrigate, and that it is unhealthy for the moment. A white man at present can't take his family down there. I personally would go down there at any moment, but without my family.

Sabi, 26th October, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

CHARLES ISRAEL: I live at Sabi, and am a storekeeper. Provision seems to be made for the Kaffirs, but what about the vested interests of white people who have invested money in their homes and stores. It is going to act very adversely upon us if the Kaffirs are sent away from the non-native areas. I take it this Committee will not enquire into that at all. I am speaking for the commercial interest in Sabi. We came here a good many years ago. We have depended very largely on the native trade. We have built houses and stores, and invested thousands of pounds, and now the suggestion is that the Kaffirs are to be sent away. There are a large number of natives on Grootfontein, the farm on which the town of Sabi stands. I can't give the exact number, probably about 3,000. The natives work chiefly on mines, but a large proportion do not. Half of them are rent-paying natives on the surrounding farms.

Joseph Kitchen Garth spoke in the same strain, and added that he could not speak as to the area that ought to be given to the natives.

HENRY THOMAS GLYNN: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Sabi. I am a director and mine owner. I have mining interests in this district. I have lived in the district for 37 years, and am well acquainted with general conditions here.

I think these parts where white men are living should be excluded from the proposed additional native area recommended by District Officers. For instance, the owner of Sandford No. 46 does not want to be included in the Kaffir area. He and I together marked off about 10 farms running from Madras on the Sabi to Dinglizdale No. 256, thence east to Seville 1266, thence south to Lisbon 62, which would be suitable for natives. It is Government ground, and well watered. Some of the farms are very good. The altitude of that area is about 2,500 feet. It is malarious, but natives seem to live there all right. There are no white people there at present. Some have grazing rights there.

I would recommend that there be a native area in the Barberton district, bounded on the north by the Sabi, and following the western edge of the reserve to where the reserve touches the Crocodile, with the Crocodile as its southern boundary, and thence following a line 5 miles to the east of the Logies River up to the Sabi—total extent 35 by ten miles. I can't say whether the natives in the proposed Area No. 19 in the Barberton district would be prepared to go to the area I recommend. Swazis formerly lived in the area I have recommended. There are natives there now. I do not think it is true to say that it is very rocky and rugged. It is similar in character to the country north of the Sabi. None of it can be irrigated. The character of the soil north of the Sabi is moderate only, worth about 10s. a morgen. It is fairly good agricultural country. Possibly by scientific farming more might be done.

The altitude along the Berg varies from 3,500 to 7,000 feet. There is a fairly large number of natives living along the Berg. I can't say whether they would be content to live in the area I have mentioned in the Barberton district.

As to where I should put the natives who have lived on the high veld I don't agree with the policy of forcing them off at all.

On Bushbuck Ridge very few white men are actually farming. They are trading. I know of no prejudice to those persons if the Bushbuck Ridge area were made a native area. The farms there are fairly thickly occupied by natives. The value of land on Bushbuck Ridge would be about £1 to 25s. per morgen. It is fairly good agricultural country. I have heard lately that wheat grows very well. White farmers have come there comparatively recently—15 or 20 years ago. The natives pay rent to the owners.

I think that with a view to the linking up of areas the area here should extend into the Barberton district. Area 19 should fall out for the whites. I think that if it is beneficially occupied by Europeans it would be better for the country.

So long as we have our reservoir of native labour close by that will meet our requirements.

I do not agree with the principle of territorial separation unless it is quite voluntary.

From section 2 along the edge of the Berg and the western boundaries of Kruisfontein and Witklip—everything to the east of that within the Lydenburg district is solely occupied by natives.

Figtree Store, near Komatipoort, Barberton.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

Chief Muntu, his mother Mkonjwase and followers.

CHIEFTAINESS MKONJWASE: Examined by Chairman.

We say this is where we have always lived. We look upon it as our country. We would be quite content to have this ground upon which we live.

Chairman asks following to stand up if they agree with what the Chieftainess has said. All do so.

Mapobo (to all appearance about 80 years of age).

Examined by CHAIRMAN: I was born here in this country.

Barberton, 1st November, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

HUGH LANION HALL: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and live at Tonango, near Nelspruit. I have lived there about 23 years, and have farmed agriculturally principally, but with stock as well. I wish to make certain representations regarding the areas recommended by the Beaumont Com-

mission—Areas 18 and 19. We maintain that it is not suitable for natives, principally because it is very poorly watered, apart from the rivers. Therefore it can carry only a limited number of natives, because natives must be near enough to water for their own personal use and for their stock. We look upon it, moreover, as a most desirable piece of country for irrigation works. Both the Komati and Lomati can be taken out, not necessarily at great expense, and a considerable volume of water can be distributed, and miles of country placed under irrigation. On the Komati there are rapids which would facilitate the taking out of the water. The water could be taken out almost at the Swaziland border. On the right bank as the furrow descended along the line of the river it would get further and further against the hills. I estimate that 25 per cent. of the land between the river and the hills could be placed under irrigation. I cannot give the area in morgen. It has never been surveyed. On the left bank the irrigable area would be somewhat smaller, say 20 per cent.

The Lomati could be taken out somewhere near Schoemansdal No. 13, and could be brought down on both sides. The irrigable area would not be so great as on the Komati. As you get lower down, however, the area would naturally increase. The ground shown in the map as unsurveyed could be placed under irrigation. I consider that 10 per cent. of the area on either bank could be placed under irrigation. In Area 19 there are two white settlers, one at the top end of a portion of Schoemansdal, and the other on the adjoining portion. These are the only two white men in that area. Jeppes Concession is occupied by the Lomati Estate. There is a white man also further down on Richtershoek. The class of farming carried on by these people is principally stock-raising. They live there themselves. The country is malarious there to a certain extent, just as it is at Nelspruit. It is much more unhealthy than at Barberton.

The altitude of the area at the far end would be about the same as de Kaap valley—2,000 to 2,500 feet. On the Komati River near Komatipoort it would be about 600 feet. Originally, when I first travelled in those parts there were no natives living in the area between Furley's (on the farm Coopersdal) and Komatipoort. The natives have come in since, drifting in from Portuguese territory. I know this from my own personal experience.

The rainfall in that area is very little—probably no more than 22 inches. In one year, however, there might be as much as 40 inches. It has been very dry for the last three years. At Nelspruit the normal rainfall is from 30 to 32 inches.

I consider the country I have mentioned more suitable for European occupation, in view of its irrigation possibilities, and the need for settling more settlers on the ground. I would suggest that the furrows be taken out for the purposes of a close settlement scheme under the supervision of the Government. If possible the furrows should be cut by Europeans so far as possible, and the men who do the work are the men whose applications should be considered first for settlement.

It is hardly fair to ask a farmer how many settlers could be placed successfully on that area. Months ago we asked the Government to send an irrigation engineer. He would have been able to give you a more satisfactory report than I can.

The area is suited chiefly for agriculture. I doubt whether you could grow wheat there. Very likely sugar-cane would answer. I have been on the sugar estates on the Komati in Portuguese East Africa, and cane is doing very well there. You could grow all kinds of tropical and sub-tropical fruits—citrus, pineapples, bananas, mangoes and potatoes. It is a good cattle country, too, but not good for sheep.

I don't wish to make any representations with regard to Area 18, on the left side of the railway line. From what I know of that country it is very poor indeed.

The alternative area that we suggest in lieu of Area 19 is that you take the Logies River from its junction with the Crocodile, running up the river until you strike the wagon road to Pretorius Kop. Follow the wagon road until it reaches the Sabi at Calcutta, thence along the Sabi to Madras, and thence along the boundary of the Sabi Ward until you strike the Crocodile again. In order to link up with the Lydenburg area I would suggest that the line should follow the river past Madras up to Boschhoek, thence down the boundary of the Lydenburg district up to and including Bultfontein 248, and thence in a direct line to the boundary of the Sabi Ward.

Chairman: Do you think the area you recommend would be sufficient to provide for all the natives in the district? I maintain that any settler would be only too pleased to have natives on his ground. I think that if the water scheme went through the natives would not necessarily have to move, they would be only too glad to remain.

The Logies is dry in the winter months, but has pools. It is not the only source of water supply. The area I suggest is well supplied with fountains—quite sufficient for the needs of the natives. I think the area should carry between 2,000 and 3,000 natives in all.

Chairman: There are 31,000 natives in the district. What would you do with the balance? I think the balance should be left on the farms. We could do with them. 1,500 natives as servants are not sufficient for the development of the country as it is going on at present. If further ground is necessary for the 27,000 natives still unprovided for there is suitable land in the Sabi Game Reserve, that is only along the banks of the Crocodile. Elsewhere in the reserve there is not sufficient water.

The Crocodile could be taken out at Crocodilepoort, and land on both sides could be irrigated. Not, it is true to any great extent. The soil is not to be compared with the cultivable land along the Komati.

The rainfall in the area I recommended would be about 33 inches on an average. The soil is good and suitable for all kinds of grain except wheat. There are a few natives living there at present.

I am not in a position to say how the 27,000 natives should be provided for. Another 5,000 could be provided for along the banks of the Crocodile. It is difficult for me to say. The ground I suggest might even take more than I mentioned.

There are from 40 to 50 Europeans in Section E, principally along the river banks.

As to whether the White River Settlement is as good a proposition as the Komati, I say that for richness of soil the Komati is better, but White River is healthier. There are Boer settlers on the eastern side of the White River—about 20.

(Chairman: How would it suit you to have the western side of the Komati, giving the natives the eastern side in addition to the area you recommend)? That would not suit us at all; we want it all. The only piece you could afford to give to the natives would be here (pointing to the map), right away from the river. Wherever there are feasible irrigation schemes the natives should give way to the white men. We make more out of the ground than natives do. The native does not irrigate. The man who is going to keep the world from starvation is not the native but the white man.

We ought to make adequate provision for the natives, but not at the expense of the white people. White men are, in some places, working for natives. The Government should protect the white man.

The reason why farms along the Komati have not been taken up is that a block of farms belong to a company. They spent £10,000, but no one would take up the farms.

If you are really wanting more ground for the natives take the whole of the Crocodile River—that provides for another 5,000 along the banks. Why disturb the native? Let him sit with the farmer.

Chairman: Do you mean then that by not giving the native sufficient ground you would force him to work? Yes, it amounts to that.

I can't say exactly how many farms in this district are actually occupied by white men, but I think there are more than the 300 you mention.

Chairman: Do you think that 15 native families per farm would be a fair average to meet labour requirements? For my part I am using on an average 60 to 70 boys. Some are labour-tenants. Others are servants. All my boys work for pay. I should say that 20 families are the least that the average farmer in this district could do with. That would provide for at least 6,000 natives. That leaves 25,000 natives still to be provided for. But there are more than 300 farmers. Altogether, I should say 12,000 natives are provided for in this way.

All the ground along the Crocodile, where it is possible to do any irrigation is taken up. You could provide for more natives in the Game Reserve along the Sabi. The Game Reserve is far too large. At present it is so poorly policed that the natives are, in any case, destroying the game.

There is very little water on Joubertshoop (in the Sabi Ward). The soil is good enough.

If you took the railway as the eastern boundary of our substituted area, that would finish the game. As for taking the line along the Pretorius River and then up in a direct line to Lisbon, the same thing applies. There would be very little water in any case except along the rivers. There would not be water there for the natives.

By Mr. Boltman.] The value of ground in the area I propose runs from 15s. to 25s. a morgen. Along the Komati in Area 19 the present value on the banks is, for stock purposes, £1 to 25s. a morgen. If you take the water out, of course you increase the value enormously. I can't say when you could irrigate from the Sabi. I think it is possible in some places.

By the Chairman.] I don't suppose the natives would care to leave Area 19 and go to the area I suggest. But the native in the area I suggest would have a greater objection to going into Area 19. There are more natives in Area 19 than in the area I suggest. The ground I propose may be capable of carrying considerably more than 1,000.

Ligtfontein, Zwartfontein, Klipkoppies, Bultfontein, and Krokodilspruit (on the Lydenburg boundary), belong to private persons and are unoccupied. Diepkloof is Government ground and unoccupied. Logogotu, I think, is occupied by Sanderson. Practically none of the farms in Section F are occupied.

GEORGE JOSEPH ELPHICK: Examined by Chairman.

I am Resident Justice of the Peace, and a farmer. I live at Malelane, and have lived there 15 years. The extent of my ground is 14,000 acres. I go in for all classes of farming—cattle, citrus, and agriculture. About 600 acres of my property are under irrigation from a stream coming from Lot 69, and also from the Crocodile. We represent the Farmers' Association, duly elected at a public meeting. We represent about 110 members. We claim to be representative of local public opinion. The Mayor called a public

meeting of all the inhabitants. At that meeting the views were put forward of the Beaumont Commission. That meeting, which was a representative one, passed a unanimous vote, and our representations are the outcome of the views expressed at that meeting. They appointed Mr. Hall and myself. We are still acting under that authority.

Our views about the proposed areas are that we want Area 19 to be excluded from the native area because of its irrigation possibilities, and because it is suitable for white settlement. I think that ground is some of the most valuable ground in the Union and is eminently suited for the closest of white settlement. A very large area can be placed under irrigation.

I say the natives should be provided for in Sections E and F. (*Chairman*: Do you take in the whole of Sections E and F?—Yes).

Another point—a political point—is of very great interest and has not been taken into consideration by the Beaumont Commission. That is, the political point of having your native area against a foreign territory. In the case of trouble with a foreign power the natives would be right up against a foreign territory, and they are open to all sorts of trouble in peace time. In war time I can see very grave difficulty in having a foreign territory in which the natives are of the same blood as the natives in your area.

The natives in this area are very largely Portuguese natives who have come into our territory. In the southern part of the area they are Swazis chiefly, but the greater part of the population are Mshlangaans. The Mshlangaan is a better man than the Swazi. At the present time they smuggling guns into the country from Portuguese territory. We have so few police in that area that it is impossible to cope with it. These natives have a lot of guns, and cartridges are continually being smuggled over. That is the political point.

Again, you have a railway line through this area which you propose to give to the natives. That line would, in the case of closer settlement by the white people, pay to a greater extent than it does now. Another thing is that the whole of that ground is highly mineralised. We know we have coal, and on the southern boundary we have hornblend. Possibly we have tin. This country has never been properly explored.

Our association went to a great deal of trouble to try and get experts down to view this ground. We were promised by the ministers that the Director of Irrigation would have the ground thoroughly prospected with a view to giving evidence before your Committee. Unfortunately he could not come, but I believe they are trying to come down next month, and they propose then to give evidence before your Committee. That is the reason why to-day we cannot lay expert evidence before you as to the irrigability of the ground.

We say that the natives ought not to have that ground. We must protect our white population. After all, we are the ruling race, and we must look after ourselves. We must not give away things we want ourselves.

I agree that about 25 per cent. of the whole of 500,000 acres within that area can be placed under irrigation. I think that 25 acres under water would be ample for a European settler and his family. I think he could live and make a profit. Take my own place. I have 10 acres of tomatoes on which I have made £500. And that was only for part of the year. In the other part of the year I have reaped 25 bags of mealies to the acre. For citrus, up to the war, we have made anything from 25s. to 35s. a case. Our plan is to put in about 70 trees to the acre. We have grown 300 to 400 oranges on a tree. That will show you what you will get off 25 acres of ground worked properly. Every settler should have a certain extent of commonage for his stock. The mountains would conveniently supply that splendid grazing ground. It is about the best cattle country in the world. The rainfall is about 25 inches. That is taken from my own gauge.

The altitude of Fig-tree is about 1,200, or 1,260 feet; at Driekoppies, about 2,000 feet. The country is malarious. When the railway was built the whole of this district was a death-trap, but it has got better year by year. I dare say Mr. Bostock is known to the Committee. He and I worked this thing out, and our opinion is that what made the country so unhealthy was not malaria but sleeping-sickness. In the first stages it is impossible to tell the difference: only in the later stages, but even then malaria and sleeping-sickness are almost identical. On my farm in the old days at the time the railway was built, you could not keep a domestic animal of any sort, not even a cat or a dog. At the present time I have got everything a man wishes for. Only 3 buffalos were left on my farm. We have had no tsetse fly since.

Malaria has been traced to the mosquito. The mosquito is one of the most sly insects we have. He will retire before man in every case. Clear your ground and clear your scrub and you get rid of the mosquito. In India it was my misfortune to be quartered in a very malarious district. The bush was cleared round our camp, and 4 or 5 months afterwards we had no cases of malaria. If these methods were applied the country could be made quite healthy. Settlers should have proper houses after the model of the railway cottages in this neighbourhood.

The average mean temperature during October, November and December, has during the last ten years, ranged from 85 to 95 degrees. From the last week in December to the first week in January is the hottest—115½ degrees. But for the last 4 years it has averaged 97½ at Komatipoort. The hottest we have ever had was about 120 degrees. My wife keeps quite healthy here.

(*Chairman*: What area do you propose to give in exchange for Area 19, having regard to the requirements of the present native population and their increase for 10 years to come)? The Beaumont Area is thoroughly unsuited for an intensive population of natives. It does not carry such a population at the present time. There are times of the year when you can ride from Vijgeboom to the Swaziland border six hours without getting any water. The natives live along the banks of the river and have their cattle posts outside. The intervening places are not occupied at all. Natives could not live there intensively unless you supplied some methods of irrigation. We experimented with bore-holes, and in no instance did we find water. The area is far more suited to European settlement than to the natives. The area in which I propose the natives should be put is one which will carry double the number of natives living in Area 19, because there are a lot of little streams and mountains—the sort of country the native adores, little streams and valleys. That is Sections E, and F.

I think the strip on the other side of the river would carry a native population. It is better adapted for natives; not so well adapted for whites. A hundred years ago this country here (in the area I propose), was inhabited intensively by natives, so far as I can gather, from old Swazis and Zulus. They were wiped out by the Zulus. There were no natives in Area 19. In Sections E and F, right up to Waterval Boven, there was a native Basuto settlement. The White River is perennial, and is pretty strong. A large number of natives live in Section F. When the Shangaans rebelled against the Portuguese the princess of the tribe came to live at Logogotu. Their kraal is there.

I would not take in the area east of the Logies because the ground is not suitable.

My estimate of 500,000 acres includes both the Beaumont Native Areas—18 and 19. There are a few natives in Area 18.

Having regard to the requirements of the natives for ten years to come the area I recommend would be sufficient. Because you can put double the number of natives in my area that you can in Area 19.

I think 3 acres is sufficient to sustain a native family of five. I think that would be quite sufficient in Sections E and F.

The native would undoubtedly improve his methods of agriculture, and the ideal to be aimed at is more extensive cultivation. Under present methods of native cultivation 3 or 4 acres is quite sufficient. I know Area 19. There are places where there are a few petty headmen. There you will find, perhaps, 20 or 30 acres cultivated. Along the Unyinti River—the only spot where there is running water—there are about 30 acres, the largest block cultivated by natives. It lends itself to the form of cultivation that the native wants. Natives largely use the hoe. Very few use the plough. Hoeing is done by the women mostly.

Ten per cent. of the male population go out to work in industrial centres. Natives are living largely on game. One of the main objections they would have to shifting from the area would be the loss of the game.

The percentage of boys working with farmers would be about 3 per cent. These natives who are living on farms would be labour-tenants. Some farmers pay wages. Our main object is to get the native to work as many months in the year as we can at a wage. The other is a wasteful system. When I first came here it was impossible to get a native to work more than 3 months in the year. We could never get their women to work. The ruling wages are 30s. on farms. Women work at the rate of 6d. a day. You cannot make women work continuously.

The popular feeling of the people of Barberton is that Areas 18 and 19 should fall into the non-native area, and that Sections E and F should be offered as an alternative. I gave evidence to that effect before the Beaumont Commission. We suggested E and F to the Beaumont Commission. Our recommendations were not accepted because of officials, I suppose. In saying before the Beaumont Commission that it is not land that I should say could be thickly populated, I referred only to the extreme southern portion abutting on the Crocodile River.

By Commandant Opperman.] It was not proposed to the Beaumont Commission that Areas 18 and 19 should be separated. If Area 18 is recommended as a native area you would have a gap between it and Area 19, because of the railway.

Value of land in Sections E and F is from 7s. 6d. to 10s. a morgen. That is the Government valuation. As to the average value of land in Area 19—three farms were sold there for 3s. 6d. an acre, but I should say that the average value is £1 per morgen. I should be prepared to pay that at the present time.

By the Chairman.] With the exception of the Crocodile and Komati, we have no big irrigation schemes in this district.

(What non-native ground in the district is (*a*) irrigated, (*b*) capable of irrigation?) With citrus coming to the fore our capitalists are looking out for ground. A certain company sent their representative to the Barberton district to try and find a block of ground anything from 5,000 to 10,000 acres that they could put under irrigation by spending anything from £25,000 to £50,000 on irrigation schemes. They went over the whole of the Barberton Area and, with the exception of a scheme on the Crocodile River, they could not find a block where there was a big enough scheme to suit. There was not a single block where they could put a large area under irrigation. Very little is at present under

irrigation. By pure guess-work I should say there are about 3,000 morgen under irrigation in the Barberton district. These are feasible schemes. Down at Caledon you could put a barrage across the river 50 feet high. That would water the whole of the ground right down to Kaapmuiden, a mile on either side of the river; about £50,000 would be required. In my opinion, it would pay. You could grow any sub-tropical fruit. Lucerne would grow. At the head of the same river you can irrigate about a mile on either side of the river at a cost of about £20,000. Again, with a barrage at Crocodilepoort, you would water a tremendous lot of ground down at Komatipoort. That would cost about £250,000. One hundred and twenty square miles could be placed under irrigation on the Crocodile.

The soil on my farm is the same as in Area 19. An irrigation scheme in Area 19 would cost about £250,000. It would irrigate nearly 400 square miles. That money would have to be added to the prairie value of the land. I certainly think that if that amount of capital were sunk the expenditure would be justified. On the Lomati a barrage at Schoemansdal would cost about £20,000. One hundred and sixty square miles could be irrigated.

The agricultural development of the district is taking place more to the north-east of Barberton towards Komatipoort. The soil there is infinitely better.

At Nelspruit, when I first went there, there was only one farmer. There are about 100 in that neighbourhood now. Citrus chiefly is grown. Wattles would grow in the mountainous parts of this district.

I know every inch of the Sabi Game Reserve. With the exception of a small foot of water on Joubertshoop, there is no water. In the old days Nellmapius cut a road and the six farms shown on the map were outspan farms. These are the only places where there is water. There is no water between the Crocodile and the Sabi. It is utterly unsuited for native settlement after you get away from the river.

The Swazis, who live in Area 19, come from Swaziland. They could go back to Swaziland if they don't care to move.

During the last six years the natives in Areas 18 and 19 have not grown enough grain to support themselves. They have had to buy. They last produced a decent crop 7 years ago. The failure is due to lack of rainfall and their methods of cultivation.

DAVID FORBES: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Athol, in the district of Ermelo. I represent the Lomati Estates, which has acquired what used to be the Jeppes Concession in this district. The company is registered in this country and most of the directors and shareholders are resident in this country. The company was formed to acquire 9 farms—Buffelspruit, Vijgeboom, Lomatiedraai, Driekoppies, Langloop, Boschfontein, Jeppes Rust, Schulzendal, and Jeppesreef—and to develop them agriculturally by raising stock and growing grain. We have a manager and about a thousand head of cattle on the property. The manager lives on Buffelspruit. We have a canal from the Buffelspruit between 5 and 6 miles long, which we took over from the vendors. Its value to us would be about £200. About 1,000 acres are under irrigation, the flow of water being quite sufficient for the purpose. We have no settlers on our property.

We object to our property being included in the native area. We bought it about twelve months ago after the Beaumont recommendations had been published. We knew that it would probably fall into the area. We took the risk. We thought that its inclusion had been recommended because it had not been developed, and that if we worked it, it might be excluded.

Our manager has had malaria.

We go in mainly for cattle at present with the idea that when the country becomes closely settled we will sell portions of it. Our object will then be to turn it into an agricultural proposition. We feel that it will pay better agriculturally than as a ranch. That is the reason why we have now put a large area under irrigation—to see what can be done. We consider that we can put about 10,000 acres under water from the Lomati. The barrage would be erected on our border. I can't say exactly what it would cost. Not as much as £20,000, nearer £10,000. The value of the farms is 20s. an acre. We consider the farms extremely valuable, though our predecessors did no good with them. The soil is most fertile. We would combat malaria by cleaning the country and putting up proper houses, and by taking the same precautions, more or less, as they took on the Panama Canal. It is not necessary to drain the country. It is too dry to begin with. The rainfall is too low for growing crops.

I agree with the recommendations of the two previous witnesses. I consider Areas 18 and 19 the most valuable ground in the eastern Transvaal, but extremely unsuitable for a native area. It is rich land and, with a big irrigation scheme, could be put to useful purposes. The natives cannot, and will not, make use of more than 40 per cent. of the whole of the area. I have known that area for 30 years, and I know the conditions that obtained. There were hardly any natives at all in that area until there was trouble in Gazaland between Hanyan and Mwena. Hanyan's people fled and came to Umbandeni who gave them that area to live in. I can't remember the dates. At any rate, Abel Erasmus was then native commissioner, and he went down there to turn them off. There

was trouble, and Hanyan fled into Portuguese East Africa, but a lot of his people remained. It is true to say that they have lived there for the last 50 years, but they came as aliens. I may say also that at that particular time the Portuguese had a camp at that place. Umbandeni withdrew the natives afterwards.

The natives are extremely fond of hunting. They have a joint system of natives coming from Portuguese East Africa with guns and they shoot practically all the year round in the Game Reserve.

I think the Game Reserve is about three of four times too big. I have no idea why it was enlarged.

I cannot say whether Sections E and F are more suitable for natives. I say that any ground could be given to the natives in the Game Reserve. I would not propose to put them in the waterless area. I would put them as recommended by Mr. Hall, along the Crocodile and the Sabi. I am not prepared to go into details, but more particularly I would say that the country on the other side of the Crocodile is just as good for natives. In any case, natives only make use of river frontages.

I have a document here which I should like to hand in -for any use you might care to make of it. What I would like to point out is that we feel that we can develop our property better, and will make it produce much more than the natives can. They cannot make much use of it. They have to rely on rains. As a general rule they get only one decent crop in five years. They live entirely on their cattle. They sell cattle and buy grain. I myself, personally in Swaziland, have bought hundreds of cattle from natives. I don't think this is entirely due to methods of cultivation, though better methods would help slightly.

The rainfall is 25 inches. Maybe a native with improved methods of agriculture would produce 100 per cent. better crops.

The native area should be where there is a more regular rainfall. I think the rainfall in Sections E and F is better than in Areas 18 and 19.

Extract from letter, David Forbes, dated 31st October, 1917.

I beg to point out that some of the most valuable land in South Africa has been included in these areas; land that is not really suitable or valuable as a native area, but land which, by a large expenditure on irrigation, will become the most productive and also the most valuable land in South Africa. It is a well-known fact that in a sub-tropical country where there is growth in plant life all the year round under irrigation, will produce five times as much in crops as lands in the cold parts.

I will deal with Native Area No. 19, district Barberton, the area with which I am best acquainted, and which includes our property of the Lomati Estates, which we petition to be excluded.

This area is watered by the Komati River, which runs roughly through the middle of it, and the Lomati River flows through the northern portion, with one or two small streams running into it from the north. The Lomati River joins the Komati River on the area.

The land in this area is extremely rich, but it is not in the rain belt, so the native cannot reckon on getting more than one good crop in every five years. The natives on this area simply live out of their cattle. The area is only watered by the Komati and Lomati Rivers running through it, so the natives only live on the banks of these rivers. Thousands of acres lying back from the rivers are simply waste land and can never be used by the natives to live on for want of water. This waste land enables the few natives who live on the river bank to graze great herds of cattle, and it is through this cattle ranching that they live. With a large outlay on big water schemes the whole of this land could be utilised by Europeans, but if left in the hands of the natives, will remain waste land for hundreds of years except for grazing cattle.

On our property of the Lomati Estates the same conditions obtain. The natives live simply out of a poor class of cattle. The property is 64,000 acres in extent with the Lomati River running through it. The company has a capital of £30,000, and we are actively developing the property. A water race five miles long has been constructed placing 1,000 acres under water, with a view to growing wheat by irrigation. We have over 1,000 head of cattle, with well-bred bulls in them on the property, and it is our intention to fully stock our land at the earliest date possible. With this object in view our manager is buying cattle every day. I may also mention that our predecessors spent about £45,000 in development on the property, so we have the advantage of gaining great experience by their work.

The real development of a country is governed and stimulated by allowing those who are best able to develop the land to remain in possession of it. I earnestly submit that my company is in a position to develop our holding to a greater extent than any number of native squatters. At best, the natives could only make use of the land to supply their own wants. Whereas my company will produce thousands of tons of grain and beef for the market, not only for their own advantage, but to the advantage of the trade of South Africa.

May I also point out that in the past the European has been responsible for all progress and development in South Africa, and it is quite clear future development is entirely bound up in the European and his capital. After taking into consideration all the above facts, I hope your Committee will see its way to very strongly urge the exclusion of our property from the proposed native area.

WILLIAM STUART HAMILTON: Examined by Chairman.

I am an attorney, and have lived at Barberton since 1893. I am holding a portion of Strathmore farm near Kaapmuiden, and have lived there since 1915. I am stock-farming —large stock. This country is specially good for stock and winter crops.

I have heard what Captain Elphick has said with regard to the exclusion of Areas 18 and 19. I resided at Komatipoort from the 1st November, 1902, to March, 1903, and I am of opinion that it is a perfectly suitable country for Europeans. During the winter months I have often been on Coopersdal and I have observed the conditions, and the natives and I agree that that region is suitable for European occupation, more so than for native occupation.

With regard to the alternative proposal (Sections E and F), I agree with Captain Elphick and Mr. Forbes as to the rainfall being better there than in Areas 18 and 19. The natives are not indigenous to the soil here for a period exceeding 40 years. I deduce that from historical facts and native tradition; I cannot say whether the natives are indigenous to Sections E and F.

I think that if you settle white men on Areas 18 and 19 you would settle the native question.

White River, 2nd November, 1917.

PRESENT:

Chairman, Commandant OFFERMAN and Mr. BOLTMAN.

CLEMENT VICTOR MERRIMAN: Examined by Chairman.

I am managing director of the White River Estates, Limited, and live at White River. The company is a private company of individuals, of whom some live in this country and some in England, the capital contributed being roughly half and half.

The object of the company is citrus-growing. We have room for about 100,000 citrus trees here. This is our only scheme in this country. It is not really a land settlement scheme. We farm the property ourselves. With the exception of a small portion of 1,000 acres which we propose to cut up into agricultural lots and to lease to settlers with the option of purchase. It is all in its infancy. We have not had the ground which we propose leasing out surveyed yet, but I don't think we will advertise it in the ordinary way of advertising. We will speak of it among people who we think will make a success of the lots. They must have capital. You can't farm citrus without capital. It will be almost entirely citrus. So far as our own general farming (apart from citrus) is concerned, we will grow sufficient for our own use with sufficient to pay the cost.

The extent of our ground is 8,000 acres, of which 3,000 are irrigable. We acquired the property from the Union Government for £10,000. A canal had been built under the Milner regime, and the irrigation works had been made by the Government. There were about 400 naartjes put in by one of the settlers, a certain number of wood and iron houses, and a few built of unburnt brick and iron.

It is difficult to say what the value is of the improvements made by the Government before we acquired the property. I have not seen the figures, but I have been told that the irrigation works cost £23,000. I don't know what the houses cost but the figures could be obtained from the Department which paid out the settlers. At the time the improvements were made labour was at a high price, for everything was booming.

Chairman: What is the value of land per morgen on this estate including prairie ground? Ground has been sold along the Nels River just outside Nelspruit for £30 a morgen. The farm is Boschrand 125. It is riparian to the Nels River. It is exceptionally good ground. It is a debatable point whether it approximates to the conditions here on this estate. There they have a white sandy soil. Here we have a red sandy loam. The former is a Florida, the latter a California condition. If this land were put into the market to-morrow I should value it at about £15 per morgen irrigable land, and £1 per morgen prairie land.

I know Logogotu. I know the country north of that fairly well. I know Burgershall and the country south of that. The value of land there would be about 5s. a morgen. Further south in the direction of the Crocodile, but not riparian to the Crocodile, I should say about 3s. a morgen. It becomes poorer as you proceed in the direction of the Crocodile.

There are no white settlers in that portion of the Game Reserve which falls in Section F. To the west of the Game Reserve in Section F there are:—One on White Waters (he is a storekeeper and special constable, and has a few cattle, but does not farm seriously so far as I know), none on Burgershall or Peebles, one on Logogotu, the owner, Bedingfield, who runs cattle there and has made a few improvements in the way of planting trees, and a couple of houses, value about £200 each. Another settler, Granby, is on Sabani View, and has a few cattle. Ligtfontein belongs to the Lydenburg Estates and is not occupied. Zwartfontein belongs to the Lydenburg Estates and is not occupied. Klipkoppies is not occupied. Bultfontein is Government ground and is not occupied. As for the White River settlement, I am the only white man on this side of the river.

We are buying on a term of years—originally over 7 years, but it has been made more elastic since the war. We have paid a portion of the purchase price—£2,000. The townland adjoining our property on the south has nothing to do with us. It is not occupied. No white settlers live here. We are actually working the property. We are getting our 10,000 trees this year. We have put down 1,500. It is all citrus. This soil is not good for anything but citrus; with the exception of little pockets along the little creeks and fountains. Owing to the contour of the country you can't put much ground under irrigation from the creeks. The rainfall averages 33 inches. That is true of the northern part of the section, with the exception of the neighbourhood of Sabiburg, where it would be about 25 inches. The rainfall near the Game Reserve is very much less, averaging 20 inches. The Game Reserve is malarious. It is not malarious here.

We have natives living on this estate. They are labourers. I pay them a wage—about 30s. a month and their food. I have no difficulty in getting labour. I draw my labour supply to a considerable extent from the natives living on the estate. That is only about a third of my labour. The natives on the estate are allowed to cultivate land. They work 90 days in the year. They get grazing for their stock.

This area is fairly thickly populated with natives. They are of all tribes—Shangaans, Swazis, Mbaais, and Basutos. The cultivations you see spread to the north of the estate are practically all native.

(*Chairman*: Have the natives lived here long?) Glynn says when he came to the country in '74 there were no natives here at all, but there are evidences that they were here a considerable time before that, say, about 100 years ago. Little stone kraals and mealed stones are evidence of their residence many years ago. There is a history extant of the tribes that lived here, but I have forgotten the name. The Swazis came in and routed the Sesutos who were living here at the time, probably a hundred years ago. I think that at one time this was a kaffir land. In the lands towards the creeks there are ridges where they have evidently planted mealies and made little drains—typical cultivations of the native.

I am not a South African. I came out in 1903.

By Mr. Boltman.] The size of the lots we propose to lease depends very greatly on the lie of the land, but roughly they would be about 20 acres. That will be under irrigation. The lots will probably vary from 10 to about 40 acres.

By the Chairman.] The extent of Sections E and F very roughly is about 85,000 morgen. It is very difficult to say how much of that is arable and productive. The game reserve and the country hereabouts too, is not mealie country. It pays for our own use, but not otherwise. On our boys' lands here we get 5 bags to the acre. My estimate of arable and productive land in Sections E and F is 30 per cent. to 40 per cent. What you have seen from Nelspruit to here is not typical. The other country is much more broken, and it is full of ravines. The natives cultivate in the ravines.

The natives are very primitive in their methods of cultivation. They use the plough here perhaps more frequently than in the eastern portion of the district, but generally they use the hoe. They plant mealies and kaffir corn and pea-nuts. The trouble with the pea-nut is the labour in reaping.

(Do you wish to make any representation with reference to this question of native areas)? I should like to say something with regard to the proposed site on the Crocodile and the Komati. I don't know the ground only what I have heard. The members of the Farmers' Association are very strong against the proposal. I differ from them in so far as there is no area in the Barberton district. Their alternative area is in the Game Reserve. The native must surely be treated justly, and to put him on ground like that is not fair. White men living alongside are going to lose a lot of stock because the natives will steal in order to make a living. The suggestion I should like to make is that instead of taking the land along the Komati and the Crocodile into the area, 20 miles along each side of these rivers should be reserved for the whites. The native has not learned the art of irrigation, that is, speaking broadly. Some natives do irrigate, but not those who live here, for they are primitive. My view is that where you get valuable land, such as that along the Komati and the Crocodile, it would be a pity to lock it up by giving it to the natives. It would be a pity to give Areas 18 and 19 to the natives. Perhaps they might leave a portion of those areas away from the rivers.

(Would you consider the alternative area proposed by the delegates of the Farmers' Association as fair, excluding the White River Estate?) There, I fear I am prejudiced,

but comparing the two sites E and F with Areas 18 and 19—19 is very hot with a lot of fever. Sections E and F are cool and there is no fever, except in parts—I am speaking now of the plateau where it is comparatively healthy, not of the borders of the Gamo Reserve where it is unhealthy.

My alternative area is that the line should run from a point on Oorsprong, keeping parallel with the railway line to a point near Louws Creek, thence along the Komati Ward boundary to where it cuts the line of Swaziland and along the Swaziland border, thence along and including the surveyed farms in Area 19 to the north-eastern point of such farms connecting up in a direct line with the first point named. There are creeks in that area fairly distributed. The native really requires no water except for his cattle and himself.

I have no doubt the Lomati Estates would object to the inclusion of their property.

The great thing about this settlement is that it is so very healthy. Most of this ground from my southern boundary up to Logies farm is fairly thickly populated by whites. Our voters' roll is somewhere between 60 and 70. That is on the other side of the river. I am the only settler on this side. The others reside mostly in that portion of Section E lying immediately north-east by east of the White River. They are mostly fellows who grow just a patch of mealies for their own use. More progressive men have come in during the last couple of years. There are a few sheep-farmers. All run cattle. On Hampton the occupier is planting out citrus trees.

I know that if Panama Canal methods are adopted country can be made fairly clear of malaria. I take exception to the recommendation that Sections E and F should be made a native area. It does not represent the views of the Farmers' Association. I don't agree with it, because there are a number of Europeans working it. The ground is too valuable to be in the native area.

I agree with the recommendation that the western boundary of the native reserve should be the Sabi Game Reserve, provided that the area I recommend falls away. I think that the area would be adequate and suitable to the needs of the natives, having regard to the fact that provision is to be made for the present population and their increase for the next ten years to come. It is contingent very greatly upon the land taken up by whites. That is, if there were more farms in the Transvaal taken up by whites, there would not be so many natives going into the reserve. That area, I think, should be sufficient.

In the area I refer to about 5 morgen of land would be necessary to sustain a native family of 5. That is, of course, if the native living in the reserve lives in the same way as he does to-day, in other words, if he goes out to work.

The soil in that area is just as valuable for cultivation on native lines as that on this plateau. It is of a white sandy nature.

Louis Trichardt, 15th November, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

Examined: HERMANUS JACOBUS GROBLER, and PIETER WILLEM MOLLER, Inspector of Lands.

HERMANUS JACOBUS GROBLER: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and live on Groblersplaats, in this district. I have been in this district for about 69 years, and know it thoroughly. I have often been on Land Commissions, and was also a member of the Mogato Land Commission. I was formerly a member of the Volksraad of the South African Republic.

I agree entirely with the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission as a native area in the Zoutpansberg district, except as regards the inclusion within the native area of the piece of land known as Msequas, adjoining Mpefu's Location. I understand now, however, from what you say that it is not actually included in the Beaumont Area.

I think that Msequa's should fall outside the native area. Msequa's kaffirs have, in the first place, not lived there for a very long time. There is good water there and the land is suitable for irrigation. (*Colonel Moller*: I think about 150 morgen can be placed under irrigation in Msequa's, that is to say, if provision is made for a sufficient flow of water. I have recommended that a servitude be registered against the farm Folly in order to prevent the owner from taking more water than he can use. With such a provision 150 morgen of Msequa's can be irrigated. The total extent of Msequa's is 3,700 morgen. One-third of this is arable and productive).

If Msequa's falls out I support the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission. I gave my evidence before the Beaumont Commission at Pietersburg. My recommendation at that time was that the western boundary should run from the north-western corner of the farm Magor No. 228, northwards along the western boundaries of the farms Wagen-

drift 229, Nieuwe Engeland 77, Ongedacht 802, Waterboom 949, Schynshoogte 122, Weltevreden 58, Reubander 59, and thence westwards and northwards along the Beaumont line. I said with regard to Kutama's and Senthimulo's locations that they should be exchanged for other ground within the area. These locations are good for white people. Twenty-two farms, each of a thousand morgen can be cut up there.

Colonel Moller.] If dams are made, I should say about 4,000 morgen can be placed under irrigation on the western side of the locations. Dams can certainly be made. Moreover, there are excellent spots above Senthimulo's, from which portions of that area can be irrigated. It is just as healthy there as here in Louis Trichardt.

Mr. Grobler.] The railway runs through a portion of the locations, and there is a railway station in Kutama's. Louis Trichardt station is about a mile or two from Senthimulo's. I think that under these circumstances if the Government will give these chiefs some other place to live in it will be a good thing to give the locations to white people. The locations are from 6 to 12 miles distant from Louis Trichardt town.

I would suggest that if the chiefs are removed, they be put in the additional area which I recommended to the Beaumont Commission, *i.e.*, in the area lying between the Beaumont line and the line I described running from the farm Magor 228 to Reubander 59. It is good ground and there is water. I know that there are about 5 to 7 thousand kaffirs living there already. I don't know whether they would be content to have Kutama and Senthimulo there. I know there is great difficulty in moving natives, and that those who live in locations must consent before they can be moved. I think the Government should offer them ground in the area I have mentioned in exchange for their locations. I know the recommendation made by Mr. Stubbs and several other witnesses before the Beaumont Commission. There are about 30,000 natives in the area lying between the boundary recommended by those witnesses and the Beaumont line. There are no white men there except a few traders and settlers, and the greater portion of that area is companies' ground. It is true that it is practically closed to the white man to-day because there is a large native farming population from whom the companies recover rent. I think that ground would be quite sufficient.

Colonel Moller.] I support Mr. Grobler and propose that the line should run from Reubander to Magor as recommended by him. With this addition the extent of the whole native area would be 3,500 square miles. (*Chairman*: What proportion of that area is arable and productive?) The eastern portion from the Ndjilele River to Magor, that is, the additional area I have referred to is irrigated by three rivers, by a series of small spruits. The Sibasa area has many fountains and spruits. The Singwitzi is partially dry, but this block is extremely suitable for native settlement, and is at present occupied by natives—witness the many locations of free kaffirs. The whole region can be closely settled along the rivers and, if overcrowded, bore-holes can easily be made for domestic and stock purposes. The grass is very suitable everywhere and compares favourably with that in the proposed white area. There is more rain, more flat ground that can be brought under irrigation, and the ground is, in general, more fertile. On the Mpafuri, Zindi, Levoeboe and Mtali Rivers, thousands of morgen can be irrigated, while the Ndjilele valley is known as one of the richest and best-watered in this district. In that valley quite 750 morgen can be irrigated from the top. This block (the whole native area), consists of 1,602,600 morgen and can support 200,000 to 275,000 natives provided provision is made for irrigation. The Singwidzi Reserve is partly dry, notwithstanding the rivers that are shown as running through it, but there also irrigation works can be undertaken successfully. This area is much too big for game protection, and many kaffirs are living there at the present time.

In the western portion of this district there are many natives who will not be prepared to go to the eastern part of the district. I am in favour of creating another native area in that part of the district. The block I suggest is 90,700 morgen, that is, in the western part of the district. It runs from the boundary of the Waterberg district at the farm Roetsjoek No. 32, including that farm, and thence along the eastern boundaries of Blesboenderpan 543, Kraaifontein 541, Prinsloop 538, Draaihoek 518, Derby 517, Canton 516, Wonderfontein 515, Rhone 514, and Ysselmonde 513, cutting the Pietersburg boundary at the latter farm. There is a river there and the stock is very suitable for cattle. All the natives in the western part of the district can be supported there. The river is capable of being used for irrigation and a considerable portion of the block can be irrigated. Boreholes could also be made for the purposes of closer settlement. That area will support ten to twelve thousand natives if a proper water supply is provided. There are already a thousand families living there. I cannot say for certain, but, at any rate, not more than a thousand. I suggest that area in order to meet the needs of the natives who are living there. They are all cattle-farmers, and I suggest the area for them. This area will also make provision for Malaboch's Location, the inhabitants of which originally lived there.

The extent of the additional area I suggest on the eastern side is about 24,000 morgen. I calculate that the total extent of the two areas I recommend—east and west—is 2,000,000 morgen. Of that, more than half is arable. The Singwidzi Game Reserve is about a quarter of the whole area.

Of the Singwidzi Reserve the whole is productive with a proper provision of water. You can get water there. I base my estimate on a comparison with the proposed white area. The white area is entirely dependent on boreholes to make it productive. (*Chairman*: Is it not time to say that you are considering purely ranching propositions when you speak of boreholes?) Apart from that, water-provision can be made in the native area by damming up rivers. I have been through the reserve dozens of times. Two-thirds of the rivers shown in the map run, it is true, only in the summer, but the rivers in the north-east are strong running streams capable of good irrigation schemes. (The *Chairman*, after reading a portion of Mr. Frank Minnie's evidence given before the Select Committee on the native and productivity of the area: What do you say to that?) Mr. Minnie represents the Transvaal Land Owners' Association. My estimate is based on the suitability of the ground. I think that the ground is as productive, and more so, than portions of Bechuanaland which are overcrowded to-day. The natives here are all immigrants. The Knopneuzen immigrated here from the coast belts. The coast belts, it is true, are more productive, but if the king moves the swarm moves too. They did not settle in the Singwidzi Reserve because they preferred to settle with their chief. When the Bawendas moved from the north they trekked right through the fertile portions and settled where they are now. (*Chairman*: But I take it, their leaders selected the country and took care to select good country). The Shangaans came in about 60 years ago, the Bawenda about 200 years ago. The white settlements also had leaders, and they selected a portion for the whites. All that I ask for the whites is the portion selected by them.

I say that half of my proposed native area is arable. (*Chairman*: Mr. Wheelwright, in his evidence, says that there is only one permanent river). I can understand that in a dry year.

I know the area north of Tengwe's Location up to the Limpopo. Portion of that is less fertile. It is no good except for cattle. It is not arable. I can't say what the extent of that area is.

There are kaffirs in the northern part of the eastern area, but the ground is mostly mountainous. Along the rivers it is fairly closely inhabited. (*Chairman*: There are a hundred thousand natives living on farms. Why are they not living in the fertile area you suggest?) Because they prefer to go to civilisation. They pay so little that they are quite content on the farms.

The portions of the area along the mountains and to the south, including the locations, are productive. Fifty per cent., and more, of the Knobnose Location is arable and productive. I cannot say what the rainfall is there. I have no records. It is true, productivity depends very much on rainfall.

The rainfall in the Singwidzi Reserve is from 10 to 12 inches. (*Chairman*: How many bags of mealies can you grow on a morgen of ground in the Singwidzi?) I have seen portions where it is possible to get 20 bags on an average. I judge from the soil alone. I think the soil is capable of producing 20 bags. The place I have in mind is along the Mpongola, and I am thinking of what the ground is capable of producing under normal conditions. Ten inches of rain, if spread over the year, are sufficient to produce a moderately successful crop.

(*Chairman*: Eight point three per cent. of the whole area is arable and productive according to statistics furnished to the Parliamentary Select Committee by Mr. Minnie). I think that is absurd. I don't agree with Mr. Minnie at all.

I don't think the natives living in the neighbourhood of Pisanghoek, *i.e.*, on the area between the yellow and green lines in the map, would be prepared to live in the Singwidzi, but I should like to refer you to the progress of white settlement in this district. Ten years ago there were only ten white families. White people thought the country was not worth settling upon, but there are a good many here now. So I think that, if necessary, the natives in the Knobnose Location would be prepared to go to the Singwidzi. According to Mr. Minnie's evidence one would judge that only companies' ground is capable of carrying natives. I have not said anything about the white area. A large portion of that is dry and waterless, and yet it is considered suitable for white settlement.

The altitude of Sunbake is about 1,500 feet; at the Mpongola River, about 1,000—about the same as at Louis Moore. Sunbake is malarious, but not so malarious as the Mpongola.

I cannot say what number of natives are living outside the area recommended by me. There may be almost 96,000. I think the area recommended by me is suitable for these natives. There is a provision in the law that natives may continue to live where they are now on farms within the white area.

I have said that water provision must be made in the area. If the Government develops the area in the same way as they are developing white areas, it will be quite sufficient. The native area lends itself more to irrigation than the white area. In fact, it would be better for whites, but in view of the number of natives there at present, I think it should be the native area. The kaffirs are fixed there. If we are to have separation the eastern portion is the most suitable for the natives.

Mr. Grobler.] When I first came here I was five years old. The kaffirs who lived here were Mashas and Ramagoep. Now it is a large nation. Where there were formerly a few kraals there are now thousands, thanks to the protection of the white man. Magatos

people lived in the mountain at that time. The Shangaans came in with Albasini. I never heard formerly of the Knobnoses. The Shangaans came in about 1855. White settlement began in 1849. The Bawenda came in, perhaps, about 200 years ago.

COLONEL MOLLER: Examined by Commandant Opperman.

My recommendation refers only to the Zoutpansberg district. I think the areas I have recommended big enough for the natives of this district. I know the area I recommend. I know the quality of the soil and its suitability for cattle and agriculture. The grass was arm-high on one occasion when I was there. On other occasions I have seen the country extremely dry. But the trees were big and old.

Mr. Grobler.] In the old days we never heard that the country there was dry except one year. I consider the soil is fairly good. Some of it is dry, but some of it is capable of being put under water. The mountainous portions are good for cattle. I think the value of the ground is not less than 5s. a morgen. The ground in the white area immediately adjoining to the west is about 7s. 6d. and, if there were water, not less than £1. Portions of the native area are more fertile than the white area.

Colonel Moller.] I think the ground in the white area adjoining the native area is about the same value as in the native area. But the native area is more suitable for irrigation works. The Government valuation of land in the white area is 2s. to 2s. 6d. a morgen. Four-fifths of that country can be developed only by means of boreholes. It can only rise to £1 per morgen for cattle-ranching purposes.

Mr. Grobler.] The Government valuation in the white area is purposely low.

The *Chairman* reads Colonel Greene's evidence before the Select Committee on the nature of the country in question.

Colonel Moller.] I do not think Colonel Greene can be considered an authority.

Mr. Grobler.] It used to be said formerly that if you went beyond the mountain you would die of fever. But there are hundreds of settlers living there now.

Colonel Moller.] Colonel Greene's report relates, I take it, to 5 years ago. In the same place, or rather in country adjoining it to the west which is similar in character, a white farmer cleared the country, sowed one bag of wheat and reaped 67.

N. JAQUES, PAUL ROSSET, and FELIX ALOIS CUENDET: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. Jaques explained that he and his colleagues represented the Swiss Mission in South Africa and that they were all resident in the Zoutpansberg district. He proceeded: "We have been chosen by a conference of the Society to represent the Mission in giving evidence before the Committee. Our work is mission work and we have a number of stations in the Zoutpansberg, five in all. We wish to make certain representations. We do not consider that area 5 is sufficient for the natives either at the present time, or to meet the needs of their increase for the next ten years to come. When we heard of the Beaumont report we were in great distress for the natives. We are here to represent the native side and native opinion in this matter. When we heard of the proposed areas and that it was proposed that the natives should be shifted down below—(The *Chairman* explains that the object of the bill is not to uproot the natives from their existing habitations). At any rate the natives consider it in that way. I explained the thing to them after Mr. Dower's visit, but they are very much afraid and disturbed by the proposed legislation. They don't know where they are going to be shifted. They considered this to be country where they were going to be settled and were looking forward to a time when the law would be more liberal. They have been more than half a century in the country. They hoped it would be possible for them to own ground here themselves. I am sure they would never buy ground along the so-called rivers in the Singwidzi Game Reserve. They are rivers only in the rainy season, but in the last fifteen years, for half the time, there has been no water. Mr. Rosset knows more about that area than I do. There was water there, I understand, 15 years ago, but there has been none now for the last ten years—at any rate, for part of the year. I cannot say what the rainfall is there. It is less than in the Spelonken. At Elim it is about 25 inches. I should say the rainfall in the area I am referring to is about half that or less. The natives live thickly between the green and yellow lines on the map. We have within that area a hospital at Elim, a training college at Rossbach, and another mission station at Lemauz. We have a farm, Cyferfontein, which is a sort of outstation. The Bawenda live, for the most part, in locations along the mountains, the Shangaans on the southern slopes and on the flats.

As to the area which I consider adequate and suitable for the whole native population, I should say that the minimum is the area bounded by the yellow line on the map. But we would suggest in addition that you take in the area adjoining as follows—along the north-western boundaries of Doornspruit No. 199, Ballymore 106, Boschkoppie 310, and the western boundaries of Vleifontein 338, Mahilashoek 139, Koedoespoort 438, cutting the boundary of the Pietersburg district at the latter farm. The Shangaans have been there since 1862 and the Bawenda 200 years before that. If the natives in the additional area I suggest have to shift they will go back to Portuguese East Africa. Not many of the natives are working for farmers. The farms are mostly company farms. The natives pay rent to the companies.

We have had our native Training Institution at Rossbach for 10 years, and the Mission there for about 42 years.

The natives always use the plough up here. They use nothing but ploughs. The value of land in the additional area I suggest is £1 per morgen. The value of land in the Singwidzi may, perhaps, be 2s. or 3s. Mr. Rosset could give you more information about that country. When there is no rain in the Singwidzi, the natives leave and go to the west. The tendency is gradually to come when the rainfall is better, to when more regular crops are ensured.

We are simply here to take the side of the natives. We should be sorry to hurt the interests of anybody.

By Commandant Opperman.] I can't say what the value is of the land to the west adjoining the area, but it is better than the land in the area.

Mr. Rosset.] I have heard what Mr. Jaques has said and I confirm it. I gave evidence before the Beaumont Commission and, at the time, explained everything about the country. I have been 25 years in the country, 8 years in Mhinga's location. I have travelled over the whole of the Singwidzi Reserve. I was with Mr. Berthond when he was preparing his map of the northern Transvaal. We found water in the Singwidzi then, it is true, but for the last fifteen years there has been no water, even in summer time. Prior to that we found water even in winter. There are only pools in the Singwidzi, even now at this time of the year. I had to withdraw my cattle because there was no running water and the pools were dry. The point I refer to is near the source of the Singwidzi, and the time was five years ago. I know the tributaries of the Mpongola River, or the Shislia shown on the map. They do exist but have water only after rain. The rain is very little. I have a gauge at Mhinga's. The average there is about 10 to 12 inches a year. It is probably less outside Mhinga's. Mhinga is not higher than the area to the east and south, but it is close to the mountain and falls within the rain belt. The soil in Mhinga's is much better too. You can see that by the trees. The natives call the north-eastern portion of the area the "Desert." The ground is gravelly. I have dug the soil. It is deep, but it is gravel even to 10 feet.

In the territory north of Tengwe's and Mhinga's Locations there are a few kraals. I cannot say how many, but they are close to the pools. They go in mostly for cattle.

I consider that not one-fourth of the land to the east of Mhinga's Location is arable or productive. The Hogge Commission, in speaking of the value of land, they said it was about 6d. a morgen. That is absurdly low so far as Mhinga's Location is concerned but, in my own opinion, it is not too low for the rest of the ground. Perhaps 6d. might be too low, but 5s. is too much—say, perhaps, 2s. or 3s.

It is very hot there. The average mean temperature during December, January and February, is 103° to 104°. At Elim it is 70°.

I endorse Mr. Jaque's recommendations. The natives live chiefly in the area between the yellow and green lines on the map and in the areas marked pink. There are no natives living to the east of Mhinga's. There are very few west of the area.

Mr. Cuendet.] The natives object very much to coming further down into the areas east of Mhinga's. They know the nature of the country and that rain is very scarce. I endorse Mr. Jaque's recommendations. Our point is, so far as possible, not to disturb the present native population, and we should like their area to conform to that condition. Natives live largely in the area we recommend.

JOHANNES FREDERIK JANSEN VAN RENSBURG, and PIETER VAN BREDA: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. van Rensburg.] I am a farmer living at Groenpunt, near Bandolierkop, in this district.

I know that the Beaumont Commission proposed certain areas for the natives. I am not very well acquainted with the boundaries. (The *Chairman* explains): I think the area should be smaller. I think the western boundary should run from the Limpopo along the Nwanedzi River to the south-western boundary of Tonomdwe's Location, and thence in a direct line to the southern boundary of the Beaumont Area. I want certain warmbaths on the Ndjilele to be excluded from the native area. Everybody will agree that those baths should be excluded. I do not know how to deal with the Mpefu difficulty. It might be advisable not to include it in the white area.

I have been along the Nwanedzi often. In the upper reaches there are a lot of natives. There is a very fine bath just on the other side of the river.

I don't know the Shingwedzi Reserve very well. The northern portion is good for cattle, but poor for agriculture. It is better along the mountains. In the east at the foot of the mountains it is fairly good for plantations and agriculture. I have never been further than the Mpongola. There are several places where there is water. It is difficult to say what the rainfall is. During the last four or five years we have had very poor rain. But before that it averaged 20 inches. That is, in the eastern part of the area.

I know Kutama's and Senthimula's Locations. If Kutama and Senthimula are willing to give up their locations, I could not say in what part of the Beaumont Area they would be willing to go.

I know fairly well the area between the yellow and green lines. There are very good farms there, but it is almost solely occupied by natives. The farms belong to companies. The natives are paying good rent. There may be a few white men there now, but formerly there were none, except a few traders. If Kutama's and Senthimula's locations were thrown open to settlement, and the present occupants were provided for within the area bounded by the green and yellow lines, I think it would be better for the future of the country. I am in favour of the proposal. I should give them even a larger portion of ground in that area than their present locations. The ground in the locations is very good. There are prospects of irrigation from the Dorps River. If there were an irrigation scheme and boreholes the ground would be very valuable. Even to-day it is worth almost £3 a morgen. It is better than my land. In the additional area between the green and yellow lines the ground is worth about £1 a morgen. The conditions in Kutama's and Senthimula's locations are healthy. It is fairly feverish in the additional area.

Chairman.] We have 225,000 natives. Do you think that this ground which you recommend will be enough for them, plus their increases for the next ten years?

Mr. van Rensburg.] That is difficult to say but, apart from that, a great number of the natives will remain with us. I think the area will be able to carry a large number. I think it will be quite big enough, seeing that a lot of natives will remain with us.

Up towards the mountains away from the river, I think about 50 per cent. of the area is arable. It is difficult to place a value upon land in the Shingwedzi. There are very few people—a few traders, that it all. Fever is not so bad there as formerly.

The region between the mountains and the Levoeboe is very fine. The Knobnose Location is fairly fertile, and in that neighbourhood there is a fair supply of water. In most places you can obtain water by boring.

The reason why white people have not taken up ground in the area between the green and the yellow lines is to be found in the fact that it is companies' ground and so, in a sense, closed to white people. Then, too, there is the fever. If the companies' farms fell into the white area, I think they would prefer to keep the kaffirs to throwing the farms open to white men. If the ground were thrown open, I think there would be just as many applications as for ground elsewhere.

Commandant Opperman.] What is the average value of ground in the area?

Mr. van Rensburg.] That is a most difficult question to answer. The whole of the area is occupied by natives. To the west of the mountains the ground is very valuable. It is less valuable on the plains. The value becomes less towards the Limpopo. It is excellent country for agriculture along the mountains. I should prefer not to attempt to say what the average value is.

Mr. van Breda.] I think the yellow line on the map is favoured by the majority of people except as to Mpefu's Location; they want that excluded. I do not think it is fair to exclude the location. Mpefu will feel that faith has been broken with him because it was granted to him as a location. On broad grounds of policy it is inadvisable to disturb his position so far as the location is concerned. I also advise that if Kutama and Senthimula are not prepared to exchange their locations for land within the yellow line, the matter should not be pressed for political reasons. I should not like to see the kaffirs all herded together on one location. One day they might give trouble. I think it desirable to scatter them to prevent them from uniting.

There is no water to irrigate Kutama's and Senthimula's locations. The rivers are very low—due to the drought. That condition has prevailed ever since I have been in this country. Both the locations have been practically waterless all the time. There is not enough water for stock.

Ever since I have been here the average rainfall on the mountains has been 30 inches. The present is an abnormal season. It has been abnormal ever since the Anglo-Boer War. My opinion is that the northern Transvaal is drying up. It is probably just a freak of nature. Maybe the water will return. I do not think afforestation affects the rainfall. There has been a widespread destruction of forest trees, but I do not think that has anything to do with it.

By Commandant Opperman.] I know the area along the mountains—the northern part. It is excellent for agriculture. It is good for any sort of farming except small stock. There are a good many cattle, kaffir cattle. Many of the traders have cattle. Lucerne grows very well in the region I describe. I have seen beautiful lucerne there. It is the same type of country as the ranches of the Liebig Company in Rhodesia. You can place thousands of people in that strip. It ought to carry two million natives.

As for the white area immediately adjoining the native area to the west, it is good cattle country. You could not go in for agriculture. You could not farm with dry lands.

By Chairman.] I have heard you read Mr. Minnie's evidence before the Select Committee where he says that only 1/12th of Area 5 is productive. The land I describe is certainly very good—that is, the mountainous portion of the area. The good land is confined to the land along the mountains. My opinion is that you cannot live by agriculture along the borders of the area—that is the area falling away from the mountains on the northern and southern sides. But it is good country for stock. Natives cannot make a success of stock. Even with boreholes they would not make a success of it. The native cannot live

without agriculture. He must have cultivable land. It is good cattle country if you have capital—not good for sheep.

I consider that 1/5th of the Beaumont Area is arable—that is practically the portion embracing the mountains. I am a practical farmer—agriculture as well as cattle I have farmed all my life. I have been in this district four to five years.

PIETER JOHANNES GOOSEN: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, living on Groblersbult, in this district. I have lived in this district about 17 years. I am an old hunter and have been over the native area. I have been right through it from time to time. And I want to say that, so far as I can see, it is country that is good for our native areas. I understand that some of our people say the ground is not worth 6d. a morgen. That is not so. When you cut off an area there must be farms that are poorer than others. All the farms may not be equally good. The Committee must understand that the strongest rivers in the district fall into the native area.

Chairman.] Is the area suitable for the 95,000 natives living outside the area including their increase for the next ten years?

Mr. Goosen.] That depends upon how much is necessary for each native In Mpefu's location I should say that in some places 6 morgen, and in other places 4 morgen are necessary to sustain a native family of five. Under water 4 morgen would be sufficient. I do not think 1 morgen under water would be sufficient. It is impossible to live on one morgen.

You cannot get more than 25 bags of mealies from one morgen of dry land; with water you may get 50 bags. Four morgen of dry land is equal to 2 morgen under water. A kaffir might manage with 25 bags of mealies but, in my own experience, I have in one year got 2½ bags where, in a good year, I might get 200 bags. I got only 2½ bags because there was no rain. In the native area the case would probably be the same.

Chairman.] What do you think of the proposal as to the two locations of Khutama and Senthimula?

Mr. Goosen.] I think it would be a good plan to exchange the locations for a portion within the area between the yellow and green lines.

It is good country between the Ndjilele and the Nwanedzi. I do not think Senthimula would be content to go there. He might be prepared to go into the area between the yellow and green lines. The ground there is almost all companies' ground.

I propose that Mpefu's location be excluded from the native area. I proposed that to the Beaumont Commission. The farms to the south of the location within the area are good farms. Drylands is owned by the Government. Serolle is owned by Wolf and Simpson. All the farms are occupied except Drylands. I think it would be much better if the boundary ran so as to exclude Mpefu's, and then along the Beaumont line.

I think Mpefu should be satisfied to get Lisbon, Seville, and the strip of farms just outside the boundary of the Beaumont Area, in exchange for Msequa's. The farms to the south of Mpefu's must be excluded, unless the owners are willing to fall into the native area.

I should prefer the line to run from Pisangkop more in a direct line to the Letaba. I don't want to give the area between the green and yellow lines unless we can get Khutama's and Senthimula's Locations. Otherwise we prefer to stick to the Beaumont line.

The value of the farms in the strip which I suggest should be given in exchange for the farms to the south of Mpefu's is about £2 per morgen.

By Commandant Opperman.] I know the Beaumont Area. The ground is partly good and partly bad. The greater portion is fertile ground. I think about 75 per cent. can be cultivated. A large portion is quite flat. The natives cultivate on the mountains where there is fertile ground. The ground adjoining the area is mostly dry veld. There is very little water. There are the Crocodile, Sand and Brak Rivers—which are mostly pools. This year they are still running. The best river is the Brak River. It is the most permanent. It has pools which are permanent. There are strong rivers in the Beaumont Area. They do not cease to run in dry years. The only one that ceases to run is the Ndjilele. The other rivers I refer to are the Levoeboe and the Mtali, also the Nwanedzie. These have permanent water.

I think the native would be very much worse off in the area adjoining the native area than in the native area itself. He is 100 per cent. better off in the native area. If you went through the area I am sure you would say it is too good to give to the natives.

By the Chairman.] The Bawenda have had their ground for about 200 years. Their locations were awarded to them by the Hogge Commission. I do not see why the Bawenda should be discontented. They have the ground which their race has always had. It is excellent country in the locations and following the mountains eastwards. It is very dry along the borders of the area, but not so dry as in some portions of the white area. It is excellent cattle country.

The Bawenda are a mountain race. They are agriculturists. I think they would go down to the plains. Some of them are there now. I know that Mtewana was not content to do so, but you will find Bawendas there. Naturally the native wants to stay where he has always lived.

HENRY GARNER: Examined by Chairman.

I am Acting Magistrate and Native Commissioner for the Zoutpansberg district. Before that I was Acting Sub-Native Commissioner for the Louis Trichardt sub-district. I occupied that post for about a year. I have been in this district a little more than 10 years. For a portion of that time I was at Sibasa—for the rest, at Louis Trichardt.

The native population of the district is approximately 202,300. Of that number 76,739 live in locations scheduled under Act 27 of 1913, 15,880 live on Crown lands, 10,000 on privately owned, including Missions. All the scheduled locations with the exception of Khutama's, Senthimula's, and Kibi's, fall within the Beaumont Area. The total population falling outside the Beaumont Area is roughly 100,000. Of these, 75,000 odd are rent-paying squatters, 17,000 are labour tenants. There are no servants within the meaning of the bill. I cannot say how many live on Crown land outside the area. I shall have to supply that information later.

Labour-tenants work 90 days in the year. They get in consideration for that a limited amount of land with grazing for their stock. There is a shortage of labour in the district.

Three hundred and ninety-five farms are personally and beneficially occupied by Europeans—300 Government, and 95 private. That would take 7,900 natives as labour-tenants on the basis of 20 families to a farm. There should be no demand for labour at all. Chiefly the farmers on the flats are short of labour. There are a few labour-tenants on their farms, but not sufficient for their requirements.

Chairman.] What is your view of the adequacy of the Beaumont Area?

Mr. Garner.] There is a portion here that I have not gone into—the Shingwedzi Reserve. I take it that 40 per cent. of the area is unsuitable. It consists of dry belts quite unsuitable for natives—a barren waste. That is not from a personal inspection. I have seen, however, a small portion of the Shingwedzi, which I regard as typical—that is the portion lying along the sources of the rivers on the northern side of the range of mountains running through the middle of the area.

I consider that Mpefu's Location could accommodate a few more hundred natives. If Mpefu's were properly irrigated it might be able to accommodate a considerably bigger native population, and that is true of a number of other locations, for instance, those in the Sibasa Area, but there the conditions are not so favourable for irrigation. In Mpefu's the conditions the very favourable owing to the conditions of the country. In the others the contours of the country are such that you could irrigate only a limited area in comparison with Mpefu's. At present the locations, broadly speaking, cannot accommodate more natives, but probably with irrigation schemes they might accommodate a few more. Practically the whole of the population in the area is in the locations.

Chairman.] Have you thought whether the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission are adequate, that is to say, having regard to the present native population, plus their increase for the next ten years to come?

Mr. Garner.] In view of the 40 per cent. barren waste to which I have referred and the native population outside the area, I do not think there is sufficient ground to accommodate the natives, that is, even allowing 10 families to each occupied farm in the white area.

I agree with the recommendations made to the Beaumont Commission by district officers and other delegates—indicated by the yellow line on the map. A large number of natives are living on the farms in the area between the yellow and the green line and, moreover, there are a number of other natives scattered about the district who will also have to be accommodated. The additional area of 290 square miles is necessary.

That area is occupied chiefly by natives. There are a few white farmers ten at the very most. They go in for agriculture on one or two farms on the mountain slopes, and stock to some extent. Most of the farms are owned by companies.

The companies' farms are not occupied by white people, but by natives who are rent-paying squatters. Some of the farms are owned by the Swiss Mission Society who also have native squatters on their Mission Stations at Lemana, Vandesia, Rossbach, and Middleplaats. At Rossbach there is a native college.

I value the land in the area between the yellow and green lines on an average from 15s. to £2 a morgen. The country is chiefly occupied by Shangaans. There are only a few Bawenda. Generally the Bawenda live along the mountains.

Chairman.] It has been suggested by some witness that it would be a good thing, if possible, and provided Khutama and Senthimula consent to give them, an equivalent portion of ground within the proposed additional area.

By Mr. Garner.] I agree with that. In recommending the additional area I had in contemplation the offer of an equivalent area to Khutama and Senthimula in exchange for their locations. I have discussed the matter with Khutama and Senthimula. I think they would accept an equivalent area provided they were satisfied with the extent.

Chairman.] What area would be acceptable?

Mr. Garner.] I do not think the ground on the southern side of the Levoeboe would be acceptable. I think they would accept any area in the portion immediately adjoining the Beaumont Area, *i.e.*, the area between the green and yellow lines. They want their area to run from north to south. They want some of the mountain.

Chairman.] Do you think there might be a conflict between Mpefu and Senthimula?

Mr. Garner.] Mpefu considers that he has a title to the land north of the Levoeboe, but I do not think that would be an insuperable difficulty.

Farms in this district are being largely taken up by Europeans. The tendency of development is northwards, the reason being that the only valuable open ground lies there at the present time. So far as Government ground is concerned, the only open ground lies to the west and north-west. There are Government farms lying to the east and north-east, but in limited numbers.

Commandant Opperman.] I do not know the Shingwedzi Reserve. There is not much water to the east of the area. There are no permanent rivers there—only a few pools. I have been in the Game Reserve only once. I cannot say for certain whether the rivers are permanent. I know the country adjoining the area north-west. It is cattle country. There is not much water—only on a few farms. There are no rivers in that part of the country. So far as I know the whole of the Zoutpansberg is poorly watered except along the mountains. The mountains in the native area are well watered.

Forty per cent. of the area is useless. I should say 12½ per cent. is productive (vruchtbaar).

The infertile part is good for cattle, but not so good as the country outside the area. There are many parts where you find no grass, only bushes, but, generally speaking, the portion that cannot be ploughed can be used for cattle.

I should like to add that I think it would be good policy to do away with Kibi's location in the west. I know that Colonel Moller recommends a further area in the western portion of the district. I do not support that. I think there should be only one area in the district. With another area you would be locking up native labour.

I think the location should be excluded from Area 5, but provision could be made for it in Area 2.

OLOFF MARTHINUS SMUTS BERGH, RIDGEWAY CHARLES BRISTOW, and JOHN BANKS: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. Bergh.] I am an attorney practising at Louis Trichardt, also a farmer.

Mr. Bristow.] I am a farmer.

Mr. Banks.] I am a farmer living at Schoonuitzicht.

Mr. Bergh.] We three are here in a representative capacity. Our fourth representative, Mr. van Breda, is not here, but we are pretty unanimous on all points. I do not think our representations will be prejudiced by Mr. van Breda's absence. Eight of us were elected by a general meeting. These eight deputed four, and we are here in that representative capacity.

I have seen the terms of reference and our Association is cognisant of them too. It has been left to me to consider the points it would be advisable to bring up. We don't want to go into little details. Two areas were submitted to our Association and anybody had the right to make a proposition, and we came to a resolution as to what line to support. We are here to-day to make these representations.

When I speak of two areas, I mean the Beaumont Area and the alternative one suggested by district officers.

There are a few things we are hazy about. The first point is that we want to know whether if we recommend that the locations of Khutama and Senthimula be removed into the native area, the Government will carry out our recommendations. We say that for the purposes of native administration in future it is most desirable that any land owned by natives in any district should be continuous. If we recommend that, will the Government support our recommendations by force if need be?

Chairman.] There is a provision in the Bill that wherever scheduled areas are excluded from the native area, and if they are required by the Government the Government, by resolution of both Houses of Parliament, may dispossess the natives. If adequate provision elsewhere is made for the natives and they accept the area recommended as an alternative, there would be no occasion for bringing that machinery into force.

Mr. Bergh.] The second point is this. We have heard a number of witnesses. Many have given evidence as they wanted it. I am not in a position to-day to say how much of the ground in the Beaumont Area is suitable for natives, and I do not think there is anybody in the district who can. We presume, for argument's sake, that you wish to add a portion to the native area which is suitable for the natives to settle upon in case you have to shift the locations, and in order to avoid disturbing the large population of Shangaans already living there. We deduce therefrom that a portion of the Beaumont Area is considered unsuitable for natives. We heard this morning from Mr. Minnie that only 8 per cent. is suitable for natives. Colonel Moller said that 50 per cent. was suitable. I might just as well say that 80 per cent. is suitable so far as saying goes. I don't intend, in any case, to prove how much of the area is suitable. But I think it is reasonable seeing that there is a difference of opinion to split the difference and say that 30 per cent. of the area is suitable for natives.

We have been deputed to support the green line, *i.e.*, the Beaumont line, and we are deputed, secondly, to recommend the removal of the locations into the area. If it be

proved to us that the natives in the locations cannot possibly get a place within the Beaumont Area we shall propose an alternative scheme. Our scheme is this. We are pledged to support the green line. If we acknowledged that 50 per cent. of the area is unsuitable for natives, why does the Government give them unsuitable ground? Our argument is that at the time the white people came up here there was certain ground which was regarded as unsuitable. That ground has, in time, become suitable, and time will show that all the ground is suitable. We suggest that the part of the area regarded as unsuitable should be cut off for the white people. Another point is the question of the value of the ground. Much evidence has been led as to the value of the ground. I wish to give my opinion. No one can say what the value of the ground is. If I am asked to value ground I can only value it according to what adjoining ground was sold for. As for this ground which is said to be waterless, time will show that, for many purposes, it has just as much value as any part of South Africa, especially so far as cattle is concerned.

No doubt, if a line is drawn and a certain portion of the district is set aside for natives, a portion of the area will be unsuitable. If there is such ground we recommend that the Government put it into a state to become suitable for the native. We cannot spend too much money on making a success of the native question. I do not think it would be unfair to apply all native revenue to such purposes. It would pay South Africa.

We support the green line with the proviso that the locations are included and that the projection formed by Mpefu's location is cut off. If it be proved to us that there is no room for the natives of the locations, we say we will give the bit between the yellow and the green line, provided you give us the portions of the native area which are declared to be unsuitable.

Chairman.] It has been suggested by one or two witnesses that the Shingwidzi Game Reserve should be excluded.

Mr. Bergh.] We have come to the decision that the Game Reserve should be excluded from the native area as well as from the white area. I can give no idea of the extent of the portion of the Game Reserve falling into the Zoutpansberg district.

Chairman.] Do you expect us to tell you to-day where we can find suitable land for the location natives? That is impossible. We have not gone to the natives to say: "That is the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. Select your land within the area." We are meeting the natives to-morrow and we do not mind some of you gentlemen being present and hearing what they have to say about the proposed exchange. They will be able to indicate to us to-morrow what area will be acceptable. It is not for us to say that we consider these two chiefs can be provided for here. For if they do not accept the area which we consider suitable you would have to bring the legal machinery into operation, and if you did that and compelled them to go into an area not acceptable to them, you would immediately bring discontent among them.

Mr. Bergh.] Supposing, for argument's sake, you say to them: "Go and look at that ground and say whether it suits you," and they say none of it suits them. Is the idea then to leave the locations where they are? If so, territorial separation becomes a farce. That is how we look at it. We are of opinion that if you want to make the Bill a success you must have the natives in one compact area. We consider that the future of the Zoutpansberg lies chiefly in cattle. We say that the northern portion of the area is unsuitable for natives, and that being so, we see no reason why it should be included in the native area.

A native can't make ground as valuable as a white man can. Portions that are unsuitable for the natives can be made suitable by the white man. It will never be made suitable by the native.

Mr. Bristow.] I agree with that.

Mr. Bergh.] The area we want, if the area between the yellow lines is given to the natives, is the area north of the locations.

Chairman.] We have to make provision for the native population, plus their increase for the next ten years. Assuming that 75 per cent. of the northern portion of the area is unsuitable, where are you going to put Khutama and Senthimula within the area?

Mr. Bergh.] I would suggest on the Pafuri River. I do not know the country. The only people who could give you satisfactory evidence as to the sufficiency of the area are those who have studied the question for years.

Mr. Banks.] I vigorously oppose the inclusion of the ground between the yellow and the green lines under any circumstances, even if the northern portion of the area is regarded as unsuitable. At a general meeting of our Association a resolution was passed in favour of the recommendation of the Beaumont Commission. We wanted the locations of Khutama and Senthimula and Kibi to be removed into the Beaumont Area. It is a difficult question how to provide for the natives in these locations on account of the feeling between the chiefs. I should go so far as to concede a few farms within the area between the yellow and green lines in order to have them removed from the white area.

I want to draw your attention to the fact that the area between the yellow and green lines is agricultural country, whereas the locations of Senthimula, Khutama and Kibi, are cattle country. The rainfall on the former is double that on the latter. The arable and

irrigable land in the area is double that in the white area. Very little of the Mara Ward is arable.

Chairman.] How much of the Knobnose Location is irrigable and arable?

Mr. Banks.]Enough to support nearly double the present population. I should say that more than 50 per cent. is irrigable and arable. I am quite sure of that. I am speaking from my own practical experience in that vicinity. That is not true of all the country apart from the mountains.

The Knobnose Location is irrigable from the Levoeboe. The water can be taken out on a farm called Schiel and taken along from there. The contour of the country is such that you could irrigate right across country from the western to the eastern boundary of the location. The rainfall in the Knobnose Location is from 12 to 20 inches. The average in the last three years is very low. Last year the rainfall was quite sufficient and they had a good crop. The rainfall was below normal. Normal is between 15 to 20 inches in that country. We had a normal rainfall in 1911. In 1914 it was above normal.

Chairman.] How do you arrive at a basis of normality?

Mr. Banks.] I base my estimates on my knowledge three years before 1911. Since 1911 we have had abnormal seasons, exceptionally dry except in 1914. For three years before 1911 we had a normal rainfall.

The natives in the locations of Khutama, Senthimula and Kibi, could be provided for somewhere east of Knobnose Location or near Iron Mountain. If necessary, I should suggest conceding a few farms adjoining the Beaumont Area. It is true that you create a difficulty owing to that area (adjoining Beaumont Area), being occupied by Shangaans, but you would create a difficulty anywhere.

I bought Schoonnitzicht from the Government and have leased Goedgevonden. I am representing the agricultural interests of the whole of that area between the yellow and green lines. These farms are practically all company farms and natives are almost solely squatting on these farms.

Chairman.] Do you think there would be any objection to providing for the natives on the southern side of the Levoeboe?

Mr. Banks.] I am opposed to that. It limits the development of that area.

I would suggest that the small area between the yellow and green lines be given to provide for Senthimula, Khutama and Kibi. I do not think there would be friction with Mpefu. I think it would be fair to give a few farms there in exchange for the locations.

Mr. Bergh.] One more point. We are in the dark about two things. The first is whether it is the intention to give the ground to the natives for ever, and the second is, whether communal rights will still prevail in the native areas.

When the legislature has granted an area to the natives, I am of opinion that it cannot touch it again. We feel that the whole thing is an experiment, and that we do not know what the result will be, and once the natives have the ground we cannot touch it again.

Mr. Banks.] I want to say that, in my opinion, the southern face of the mountain in the area between the yellow and green lines is the best in the world for citrus. It can never be developed properly if the area is divided between the whites and the natives.

There are large areas between the locations in Area 5 which can be irrigated. I would prefer the area where the locations are to any part of the white area.

By Commandant Opperman.] The country in the neighbourhood of the locations is very rich. The Levoeboe can be taken out and thousands of morgen can be irrigated. It is some of the best wheat land I have seen in South Africa.

I have heard what Mr. Minnie has said in his report, but I consider that he is biassed.

Mr. Bristow.] Mr. Minnie's knowledge, I think, is limited to parts of the area. I consider that Mr. Minnie does not know the country. He is not a practical man. He is not a farmer.

Mr. Banks.] All the level country below the road going to Chewas can be irrigated

Another thing I should like to mention is that the agricultural natives as soon as they acquire stock send their cattle into the northern portion of the area where the grazing is good.

16th November, 1917.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN,
and about 60 natives.

After the Chairman had addressed the gathering, the following representative natives were heard.

SENTHIMULA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of a section of the Bawenda, and live in my location in the district of Zoutpansberg. I am here to-day to represent my section of the Bawenda.

First of all I wish to greet you. We have expected you. Our Sub-Native Commissioner told us that the line would be alongside the Lomondo Location and the farm Lisbon, and along the Ndjelele up to the Limpopo. Our hearts were not pleased about that line. That line is all right, but it is not sufficient for the natives. Half of it is only cattle country. Another thing is that we could not go down there away from here because the country belongs to Sibasa, Pafuri and Baputa.

The line we suggest is the railway line from Bandolierskop to Groot Spelonken, and from Bandolierskop along the main road to Messina. There you have a line already defined. That line would suit us because we are a lot of people. If the Government wants to assist us they should assist us in this way. People can live on the country near here, but further on it is only good for cattle.

As for the Dwars River, people can simply get over the line. They are close by. It will suit them.

That is what we want. I have heard that another line has been suggested—one from Elim to Pisangskop, and thence to the Ndjelele. That would not be sufficient for us. The line I suggest would be much better. It would just suit our requirements.

We have lived in this country for years and it is a hard thing to be shifted. I know that when you have lived on one spot for years and are shifted you will never be happy in the place where you are shifted. The best thing is to shift us where we would like to go.

Chairman.] It has been suggested that your location should fall into the proposed native areas.

KHUTAMA: Examined by Chairman.

I am Chief of a section of the Bawenda and live in Khutama's Location in this district. I say the same thing as Senthimula. I want the line to run along the road from Messina to Bandolierskop. That is all that we want. We want that country because we say that is our country.

Chairman.] Are there many of your people there.

KHUTAMA: Even if I have not got any of my own people there, we Bawenda are all the same.

RASINGANE: Examined by Chairman.

I live on Wolverade, and belong to Chief Thomas. I am a Bawenda. We have been expecting you for a long time. We are very glad you have come. I used to fight with Captain Schiel about the Knobnose Location, and I still remain where I am now. Captain Schiel wanted to give me Tabaan's Location, but I refused because it was too far away and I preferred to remain where I was. But he assured me that after the war with Mpefu he would look into the matter and have a location surveyed and handed over to me. I was told to keep my temporary residence, and that he would represent the matter to Piet Joubert and President Kruger. We shall be quite pleased with the line that you would give us. You know the line. I do not know it.

Chairman.] Will you blindly accept whatever we recommend?

RASINGANE: We can't say we will make a line when our Chief's are there. It is for them to make a line.

MASHAO: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Bawenda and live at Mashaoskop. We are very glad to see you to-day and to talk about this line. The only line we suggest is the one Senthimula suggests —the railway line and the main road to Messina. If this is not the line I am afraid we shall all die from overcrowding. If you do not give us this line but give us another line and bring other people in they will not have room to plough, and we shall not have room to plough, and shall all die.

Chairman.] What are you going to do with all the white people there?

MASHAO: The Government is going to deal with them. I have nothing to do with them.

BUMGENI: Examined by Chairman.

I am glad to see you now, for you have been away for a long time.

We are glad to hear about the country. It is your country. We are only women. To-day we hear that you are going to cut up the district and give us areas, but what can we do? We can do nothing.

I can say nothing. We shall just wait and see what you do. Whatever you give us we shall be satisfied with. I have no more to say.

BOKKISI: Examined by Chairman.

I am an Induna, and live at Mashapa. You are my Chief, and I am your Induna. I am glad to see you and hear your words. We hear that you are here to cut up ground for us. We are glad you have come to us, and we should like you to do as you think.

I have never asked for a location. It is for the Government to see that we get our location. It is for the Government to cut up the land and then call us up and say, "Here you are. This is what we have cut out for you." When we are told what line is to be ours we shall be very grateful for what the Government has done for us. The only thing the Government should do is to cut the line further away, so that we may get a bigger piece.

I do not know what bigger piece to suggest. I am not asking for it.

Chairman.] Who is asking for it?

BOKKISI: We all say so, but, of course, we should like to have it bigger.

TAKILANE: Examined by Chairman.

I am an Induna, representing the Chief Sibasa. I live in the Sibasa Location. Sibasa has a following of about 20,000.

We are glad that you are here. We were told that you would come. We are very glad now that our three fathers are here before us.

I represent a lot of people, and my words are on behalf of many. My words must carry weight. This gathering is not simply here to see how we are getting on now, but to look upon the future. You have come here to settle a matter which will be settled once and for all. Why is it that in the Louis Trichardt area you have only had two chiefs who talked? We can't go back on our word. What we saw yesterday at our meeting we must say to-day. We are not women. We are men. The best thing will be to take the Shangaans away and send them back to their homes. I think they should go back to the country from which they came—Portuguese East Africa. That is their home.

We are here to fight for an area where we can live. We have heard talk of two lines, but we were never told officially that these were the lines. We just heard it. We cannot accept these lines, because we are increasing every day. Though we may say we accept them, the only line we can accept in our hearts is the one running from Bandolierkop to Messina.

You must take no notice of these Shangaans. They are no good. We are Bawendas here. These Shangaans came to the country. When you white people came here there were no Shangaans. We are the pioneers of the country. This is where we have always lived, and where we live now.

On the other side of Tengwe's Location no human being can live. It is a country without a name. Even lower down where the Shangaans come from to get there you must travel for days without water. It is no land for human beings. There is only one river, and you must take care to get there before the animals do. We came past that place to this part. I suggest that the Shangaans be collected and put in that part of the country. They say they will be satisfied.

We Bawendas marry more than one wife. Some of us have twenty wives and many children. Now it is worse for the children, for we are not allowed to kill twins. We killed twins before. The only thing will be not to let us breed at all. Only then will the proposed boundary be sufficient for us.

If you cut us off a small piece of ground where are we going to live? Take a man with ten wives and ten children—where are they going to live? They require ground in order to get food. If you cut us a small piece we shall have to see whether we can drive these Shangaans away.

We do not want this line from Pisangkop. It is too small. We are too many, the ground will not be sufficient for us. We want the Main Road from Messina to Bandolierkop, and thence along the railway line. If you do that you will never hear any more complaints about land or anything else. The Shangaans say they will be satisfied with whatever you do. Then let the Government take them and do with them as they please. It is only right that we should say what we want. Why should the Government give us a small piece of ground when the Government knows that we have done nothing against them. We have always been obedient.

We have lots of cattle, and cattle dealers buy from us. If we get a small piece of land we shall not be able to keep cattle. I have been selling my big oxen to get money to prepare myself.

Of course, it must be understood that we can't refuse the line you give us. But at the same time we are told to express our views, and we want the line I have described. If the line is already settled upon we cannot say anything. We will have to be satisfied. But then you must remove the Shangaans. There will not be room enough. Take the Shangaans away. They say you can do as you like. Then take them away altogether.

You know that Sibasa is one of the biggest men in the district. It is through him that the Shangaans are living in peace to-day. He has never moved a hand against the Government or any other tribe. He has looked after the Shangaans, and now they say

you can do whatever you like. If you give us the Pisangkop line take the Shangaans away.

SHISIPE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Bawenda. I speak for Chief Mpafuri. This question has been going on for the last three years. We are glad to see you back. We are glad, but on the other hand we are almost crying. We shall be very glad if the Government will take the words of Senthimula and Takilane, but now we are only half glad. From Sibasa's Location it takes you a day to travel to the Rhodesian border. From Mpafuri's it takes you three days, and between these there is a stretch of country occupied by animals only. The Shangaans came and settled in our country. They came along, and saw that our country was good. They looked at the country through which they passed, and could not get anything so good and so they moved on nearer to the mountains to our own kraals. It is not far away from the border. If you travel from our kraals to the border you will be back again in a week, but at the same time you must travel through country where nobody can live. For there is no water.

Chairman.] Where is this country where there is no water.

SHISIPE: If you take a line from Tengwe's Location right up to the Limpopo there is no water except in the Limpopo.

Chairman: What about the Nwanedzi?

SHISIPE: I don't know of any rivers. I hunted through this country years ago. I often hunted there.

Chairman.] We have the Nwanedzi, the Mtali, and the Mbodi marked on our map.

SHISIPE: The Mbodi runs only near Ramaputa's, but there is no water further north. The Mtali has no water. As for the Mpafuri you can only get crops along the river bank. Nothing will grow further away.

I used to hunt in the Shingwedzi Game Reserve just after the rains, but there were pools of water only.

Chairman.] According to our map there are a lot of rivers shown in the Game Reserve.

SHISIPE: I have hunted there for years. We used to make for one pool, leaving very early to get to the next, arriving in the afternoon to find only a little water.

Chairman.] Are you an old game hunter?

SHISIPE: Yes. And I shot two lions.

These Shangaans came along from another country. They would never have come where they are now, but they saw there was no water in the country in between, and that is why they came to where we are now. They came, and are living with us now. Now you want to cut up an area for the two of us. That will never be enough. The Shangaans ought to have their own part. We will be satisfied with this line that you are talking about, but it will be the same as when a father commands his child. The child cannot say anything, but will have to do as he is bid.

PIET BOOI: Examined by Chairman.

I am an Induna of a section of the natives of the Knobnose Location. First of all I wish to greet you.

For 35 years I was in the Government service, and under President Kruger's Government I was Head Native Constable for the District of Zoutpansberg. I have been retired on pension by the Government.

We have come here to-day to talk about the boundary. There is lots of talk about it, but we don't know where the boundary is. We want you to tell us to-day where the boundary is. Three years ago when the thing was started that the line was going to be at Pisangkop. Now we hear it is to be at Lomondo's. (*Chairman* explains the Beaumont line). Do you think we will be able to live within this line? That line would never suit us. I have fifteen wives myself and 70 children. Where are my children and their children going to live? If you take the country from Sibasa's location, beyond Tengwe's there is no water. From there there is no more water until you get into the Shingwedzi. If you go there now you may find water in the Shingwedzi River, but a little later on you will have to dig for water. There is water in the river only when it rains. When you leave the boundary of Portuguese East Africa and travel in this direction, the first kraal you strike after a couple of days march is Madonki's. The country is good only for game. Nobody can live there. It is good for cattle, if you have water. The only water is in pools in the Shingwedzi River.

Chairman.] With boreholes would it not be good for cattle?

PIET BOOI: That would not help us at all. We could not grow mealies. The sun is too hot. It dries them up. You have been in the district, you have travelled in that part of the country. I am sure you have not seen there any kraals of the Shangaans or Bawenda.

I am beginning to think that the Government is tired of us natives here, because they want to give us a small piece of ground. Put us together and let us die. We are the children of the Government just the same as the white people are. We have always done

what the Government has told us to do. The Government calls to us and says, "Come and help us," and we send our children to help the Government. Now it is for the Government to listen to what we have to say. The Government wants us to have our own piece of ground, and it is for the Government to consider this boundary line we are talking about—from Messina to Bandolierkop. If you take the Pisangkop line, and if you travel from here to Pisangkop you will find kraals dotted here and there everywhere. If you make that a permanent line where are we going to live? We shall have to build towns and live together. We want to be able to have ground to plough. The Government knows now that we have lots of wives and children. Where are these children going to live? The only way will be to give us the Messina-Bandolierkop line.

The Government should send a party down to look. They will find lots of grazing ground but no water.

KIBI: Examined by Chairman.

I live in Kibi's Location. My tribe is the Sesuto. My big Chief is Kina. The Government have given me a location. When I went to the location I thought it was a good place, but when I began to plough I found there were nothing but stones underneath.

I fear, too, that my cattle and goats and sheep are dying now. I am starved on that location, and I want the Government to give me another place outside. I want the farms Rietbokvlei and Zuurbulk.

MAYEMO: Examined by Chairman.

I am a son of the late Chief Magato, and I live on the farm Rondebosch. All that you are telling us now we asked the Government for first—that is to separate us from the white people. We asked for our own territory, and for the white people to have their own territory, and the Government has suggested the Lomondo line. I know who made that line. It was the Commission, but these other natives do not know that, so I say it is the Government.

All these people here with the exception of the Shangaans are in favour of the line from Bandolierkop to Messina.

All the natives present rise and say they are in favour of the Bandolierkop—Messina line.

Louis Trichardt.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

STEWART DUNDAS GOLD: Examined by Chairman.

I am Acting Sub-Native Commissioner at Sibasa. I have held that position for the last two years. The native population of my district is 112,000. Twenty to twenty-five thousand of these are Shangaans. Most of the Bawenda live along the mountains, the Shangaans on the flats, chiefly in the Knobnose Location, and that neighbourhood.

Chairman.] What proportion of that population lives within schedule native areas under Act 27 of 1913.

Mr. Gold.] I have not the exact figures, but I can give you a fairly good idea. I should say that 76,000 of them live in locations. The balance are located on Crown lands. There are a few on privately-owned land as squatters paying rent.

With regard to the Isakoma and Entabeni Forest Reserves in my district I consider that these areas should not be extended from the native area.

Chairman.] How do you propose that those Forest Reserves should be controlled?

Mr. Gold.] They are demarcated Forest Reserves, and can be controlled by the Forest Department, irrespective of whether there is one area or not. There are a good number of natives in those reserves. I do not think it is the intention of the Forest Department to exclude natives from these reserves. The Department employs the natives on the plantations and also on their experimental farm here in Trichardt. The natives have, in the past, caused damage to the forests, but that has been limited since the Forest Department took the reserves over. I consider it would be undesirable to remove the natives because it would disintegrate the native tribes.

Chairman.] The Conservator of Forests says it would be an easy thing to exclude the reserves from the proposed native area as they are situated on the edge of the area. Do you think the natives would feel the exclusion of the reserves in any way?

Mr. Gold.] Yes, because they have lived there since they came into the district, and the majority of them belong to Mapundi's tribe in the adjoining location. It would be lopping off a portion of Lomondo's country and his natives.

Chairman.] Would you care to offer any opinion as to the adequacy of the proposed native area?

Mr. Gold.] My opinion is that the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission is inadequate for the reason that a very large portion of the area is absolutely unsuited to native occupation. The whole of the portion north of the location to where it strikes the Singwidzi Game Reserve, and the whole of the reserve itself, is useless for native occupation. It is quite good for cattle. It is not fit for natives. Natives cannot possibly live there. They cannot live on cattle alone. They must grow grain. The water courses are merely donga's—dry beds of rivers. The Nwandizi River is dry for the greater part of the year. There are pools more or less permanent. Very few natives live in that neighbourhood. They do not go in for agriculture. They live partly on stock and partly on wild fruits. There are no natives located along the Limpopo except one kraal. There are about ten to fifteen families in that country—that is, along the Mtali River, which is permanent. The nature of the country on each side of the Mtali does not permit of agricultural development. It is too rocky. There are a few narrow strips that can be cultivated. It is not well grassed. The grass is very sparse. The cattle exist on a certain shrub that is towards the Limpopo. Even with boreholes, at intervals, I do not think it would be possible to maintain a population there. The native, being largely an agriculturist, must have land to plough. When it was proposed to remove Mtawana from Lisbon and it was found that he could not be accommodated in the Louis Trichardt sub-district, I was asked to provide for him in the Sibasa Area, along the Mtali and below Tengwe's location. He refused to go there. I reported then that it was impossible to shift the man there. The altitude of the area which it was proposed to give him is about 800 feet, that of Lisbon is about 4,000 feet.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that those tributaries running out of the mountain form a pretty good river here—a river which normally should flow.

Mr. Gold.] I know the country almost within the Game Reserve. The rivers shown there exist only in name. They may flow after heavy rain-storms, but they are not permanent. There are no natives in that neighbourhood. About five years ago we had a bad season there. The natives in that neighbourhood had to be provided with food and were shifted at the instance of the Game Warden, who said that they could not live there. It would be a good cattle country if there were water. I do not think it would be habitable for Shangaans if boreholes were put down. You cannot grow crops there. I do not think the country could be made habitable and acceptable. I think it is a good cattle-ranching country for the white man. The native cannot live there because he depends upon grain, and he cannot possibly raise grain there even with water.

Chairman.] How many morgen to a beast are necessary to make a success of cattle ranching in that area?

Mr. Gold.] It is difficult to say.

I think 50 per cent. of the useless country I have described is arable, but very little of it is productive. I heard Mr. Banks say that 50 per cent. of the Knobnose Location is irrigable and productive. My own opinion is not more than 6 per cent. or 7 per cent., and that only along the Levoeboe River. There are a large number of natives living there. There are fourteen Induñas living as independent Induñas.

I do not think my locations could accommodate any more natives. Perhaps, by a system of closer settlement, they could be made to accommodate more, but under present native methods, they cannot do so. I consider there would be more room under closer settlement. I cannot say how many more could be accommodated. I have not gone into the figures.

Chairman.] Is there any area in the northern part of the area that you consider suitable for natives?

Mr. Gold.] Yes, in the immediate vicinity of the locations embracing the Magato mountain. As soon as you get beyond that I consider the country is not suitable.

In my opinion, considerably more than half of the proposed area is waste land.

Chairman.] Have you thought of an additional area to the one recommended by the Beaumont Commission?

Mr. Gold.] Yes, I support the original scheme recommended to the Beaumont Commission by the district officers. I recommend the yellow line. The farms between the yellow and green line are very sparcely occupied by Europeans and there are a crowd of natives. There are a few settlers on Schoongezicht and Laatsgevonden. The larger number of the farms belong to companies and are almost exclusively occupied by natives who pay rent. If these farms fell out I think the natives would continue to reside there as squatters. As long as the companies can get the natives to live there as squatters, I think it is better to include those farms in the native area and thus make adequate provision for the native.

Chairman.] Do you think Senthemula and Khutama could be provided for within that additional area?

Mr. Gold.] I cannot say. I do not know the country about Senthimula's and Khutama's locations.

I have heard what the native chiefs recommend. I think it would disturb a large amount of European vested interests, and I do not favour it. I consider that the natives' needs and requirements would be adequately met if the additional area I recommend were granted them. It is the only fair division on ethnological grounds.

Chairman.] What is the tendency of development in the district?

Mr. Gold.] The farms are all located in the Louis Trichardt area. We have none in the Sibasa area.

I know that the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission has not been fixed and that it is open to any people to apply for ground in that additional area, and that no applications have been made. I think that if the ground is so good, white people would have grasped the opportunity before now.

The companies do not encourage white people to occupy their farms because the natives pay them better.

I should say that 75 per cent. of the males in my area go out to work on the mines. Not many go out among the farmers.

There is no tendency towards a decrease of agricultural pursuits among the natives. On the contrary, they are on the increase. Last year I observed an increase. Natives go in for cattle whenever they have the opportunity of buying, but they are not improving the breed in any way.

I have not thought of the question of neutral areas and would not care to offer an opinion. But, if adequate provision is made for the natives, I do not see any necessity for neutral areas. The whole thing hinges upon adequate and suitable provision being made. If that is made there is no occasion for neutral areas. If the Beaumont Area were adhered to 11,000 natives, plus their increase for the next ten years, would be unprovided for. They are mostly Shangaans. They are alien to the Bawenda. I don't know where they could be put.

The part suggested by Mr. Banks as a suitable place for Senthimula and Khutama is dry and feverish. Its altitude is about 900 feet. That of Senthimula and Khutama's locations is about 3,100 feet. I do not know the rainfall. It is very little.

Chairman.] Suppose the area which you describe as unsuitable for the native were taken away and the additional area you recommend were added, do you think the resulting area would be adequate for the natives?

Mr. Gold.] It would be sufficient for the natives of my area but not for the whole district.

Chairman.] What area then would you suggest?

Mr. Gold.] I have no area in mind. Probably the majority of the natives outside the area will not be required to move. If they were required to move, perhaps, by introducing a system of closer settlement, you might find room for them within the area.

Chairman.] If closer settlement were introduced in Tengwe's location could you bring Shangaans there?

Mr. Gold.] No, the Shangaans would not be prepared to subject themselves to Tengwe's authority. The only way of applying a system of closer settlement in Tengwe's location would be with respect to Tengwe's people not aliens. If such schemes were brought about the area would be adequate. I should not like to say that it would provide for the whole of the 99,000 outside the area at the present time.

There are 350 farmers in the district. Allowing each 15 native families would account for 5,150 families, say, 20,600 souls. These might be absorbed by the farmers leaving a balance of 79,000 to be provided for. A scheme of closer settlement could be applied at once if the necessity arose. But the co-operation of the chiefs would have to be secured before you could apply any such scheme, and then only in respect of the people belonging to each chief. If the chiefs were unwilling it would have to be a gradual process.

At Rossbach—in the area between the yellow and the green line—there is a Native Normal College, and at Waterval there is a hospital. There is a mission station at Waldersee, and at Onverwacht, and another at Goedeverwachting.

A few natives could be provided for along the Mtali, but it is very unhealthy country. The probability is that the majority would die.

The area between the yellow and green lines could carry a little more population. I cannot say exactly, but roughly, about 30,000 natives live within the area between the yellow and green lines. I think that area could provide for the 16,000 natives belonging to Senthimula, Khutama and Kibi.

If the unsuitable areas are any use to the white man I should certainly say that they should be included in the white area. I do not see why they should not be surveyed into farms. The Singwidzi Game Reserve might be cut off too—altogether more than half of the proposed native area.

Chairman.] Do you not think that, if that area were excluded, there would be a danger of cramping the natives so far as the development of their pastoral pursuits is concerned?

Mr. Gold.] The southern portion of the area is sufficient for the present needs of the natives so far as grazing is concerned. The natives are largely agricultural and they tend to develop on agricultural lines.

Chairman.] What would you estimate the increase of the native population during the next 10 years?

Mr. Gold.] 50,000 to 60,000 would be the increase for the Sibasa district.

By Commandant Opperman.] The only portion of the Beaumont Area that can be used by natives is the west-central portion.

Commandant Opperman.] Don't you think it would be better to take all the natives out of the area and give them another part to the west?

Mr. Gold.] No, because large native locations are already established here and are very thickly populated, while the alternative area is already occupied by Europeans. I think there is a grave objection to moving a large number of natives who are already established in this part of the country. There are something like 80,000 natives in the locations. I do not think it would be possible to do what you suggest.

As it is of no use to the natives I think the unsuitable portion should be excluded so that Europeans can make use of it.

Chairman.] Do you think the native would continue to squat outside the native area and pay taxes, rent and licence moneys amounting to £7?

Mr. Gold.] The natives will not leave the farms unless they are compelled to. Perhaps a tax of £7 would induce a great many to leave.

By Mr. Boltman.] There are not a great many natives who can pay £7. Therefore, they will be practically compelled to go.

Six per cent. of the Knobnose Location is irrigable. Fully 50 per cent. is arable and, say, 20 per cent. productive. You can irrigate from the Levoeboe. It could be taken out fairly cheaply for the purpose of irrigating narrow strips of country along the river. There are other parts along the river that can be irrigated, the banks being low all along. I cannot say how many morgen, but a fair number. Not only the Levoeboe, but the Litsinanda and a few others in the locations, all lend themselves to irrigation and large areas can be placed under water.

I think room could be made for the natives belonging to Senthemula, and Khutama, and Kibi within the area between the yellow and green lines.

By the Chairman.] I think it is impossible to take out the Levoeboe across the farm Schiel to irrigate the Knobnose Location. The location consists of ridges. The Levoeboe has very high banks just there.

JOHANNES REINHARD BREDA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and live on the farm Una, in the Zoutpansberg district. Una adjoins the locations of Senthemula and Khutama. I have lived there since I bought the farm 15 months ago. During that time I have experienced no difficulty in getting labour. I get it on the farm. My natives are Bawendas.

I consider that the locations of Senthemula and Khutama are first-rate propositions as settlements for white people. They are not irrigable now, but could be made so if a proper irrigation scheme were carried out. It would have to be a large scheme undertaken by the Government. Individuals could not undertake such a scheme unless they combined. It would require a great deal of capital.

Chairman.] Do you find that the locations prejudice your farming?

Mr. Breda.] Yes, my view of locations is that they are a gathering place for natives who will not work. Location kaffirs will not work.

The extent of the two locations is 22,000 morgen, which could be cut up into 44 farms of 500 morgen each. A portion of each farm could be irrigated under an irrigation scheme.

If a large irrigation scheme were provided, the locations could be cut up into as many as 88 farms. Practically the whole of the area could be irrigated. The soil is suited to any kind of agriculture. It is very rich. It is a red loam mixed with "turf." It is good grazing ground too, in my opinion, the best in the Union.

Chairman.] Supposing the two chiefs Senthemula and Khutama were willing to shift, have you any area in contemplation which would be acceptable to them?

Mr. van Breda.] The land within the proposed native area under the mountains is more valuable to the native than this land. The native cannot provide water where there is none. Under the mountains there is plenty of water for his needs. He cannot exist here. This region is unsuitable.

Chairman.] You see these locations were granted to these native chiefs subject to good behaviour and they cannot be disturbed. You would have to be perfectly clear in offering them any ground in exchange for their two locations, that such ground would be entirely acceptable to them. That being so, do you think it would be in the best interest of the whites as well as of the natives, if the natives were given an equivalent portion of ground from Wolverode to Elim, down on the southern side of the Levoeboe?

Mr. van Breda.] It is an excellent plan, I think, to cut up the locations into farms and give the natives land within the area indicated. There can be no proper territorial separation if locations are maintained in the white area. I refer also to Kili's Location which, in my opinion, should also be removed. I should prefer to give up the land between the green and yellow lines.

I am not in favour of any native area on the western side of the district. The natives should be kept on one side. The more you concentrate them the better for the white man, and the better it will be for administration. If it is possible to keep them within the green line I should prefer that, but if not, I should be prepared to give up the area between the green and yellow lines. I should like to see a portion of the native area including Mpefu's in the white area, but it would be a mistake, in my opinion, for political reasons. It

would be better to keep Mpefu where he is in view of his difficulties with Senthemula and Khutama.

I do not think there will be any trouble in removing Senthemula and Khutama.

Chairman.] Senthemula said the other day that he was opposed to an exchange and that the natives wanted the eastern side of the railway line. That makes the thing a little difficult.

Mr. van Breda.] The locations are very valuable as farming propositions. In the future the ground on the plains will be worth £3 to £5 a morgen. To-day it is worth £2 a morgen.

Health conditions in the locations are very good. I am not surprised to hear that it is malarious in the area between the yellow and green lines. I do not know what the rainfall is there.

By Commandant Opperman.] If the natives of the locations cannot be placed within the Beaumont Area, I should be in favour of their getting a portion between the yellow and green lines. I think it would be to the advantage of the district to remove the natives from where they are now.

Commandant Opperman.] What would you propose in the event of the chiefs being opposed to the exchange?

Mr. van Breda.] Twenty-five years ago the whole country was of no value. To-day it is clear that the future of the Union lies up there. The ground within the area is some of the best in the district. It is to the native's interest to take the portion proposed rather than any area to the west of the district. The white man can make an area which is useless to the native, useful and productive.

The natives would never be content to leave the Beaumont Area and take in exchange an area to the west.

I do not know the area to the west, but if the native preferred it, I should certainly say let him have it. That is, judging from what I have heard of the area to the west. I have been there as far as Rhodesdrift. I am told that the country there is typical of the western part of the district. There is no water there. I do not think there would be one white man dissatisfied if the whole western portion of the district north of a line running direct from Mpefu's location westwards and including Keti's location, were given to the natives.

Mr. Boltman.] Taking that strip of country on the northern and eastern boundary of Area 5, if that had been suitable for native occupation, do you not think that natives would be living there now?

Mr. van Breda.] Not necessarily. Natives want to live among white people. The native has no desire to get away from the whites.

By the Chairman.] The Bawenda have lived in the native area for over two hundred years.

Chairman.] Would it be politic, or in any way acceptable to the natives, to move them from the mountain ranges to the region behind the mountains which can be used only for cattle?

Mr. van Breda.] It would be a harsh step to take. But I do not believe in any kaffir peril. I admit, however, that it is our duty to treat them fairly; but, of these natives who now go to the location, more than half will come out to the farms as servants. They will come out because they prefer to live with white men. The locations in our midst to-day are nothing but a curse to the farmer. It will be a great blessing if the locations of Senthimula and Khutama are removed. The same applies to Keti's. Even if we have to make a sacrifice, it is better to do so in order to bring about a big scheme which is generally in the interest of the white community.

If separation is to be a success the natives must not be scattered about. They must live together in a compact area.

Farm Driefontein No. 110, *District Zoutpansberg*, 21*st November*, 1917.

WILLEM BORCHERS: Examined by Chairman.

I am a wholesale merchant trading in the district of Zoutpansberg. This is my chief centre. I have about 30 stores, all of which are within native areas—that is, in country largely occupied by natives. My trade is almost entirely with natives. I have been here 15 years, and I am well acquainted with local conditions. I move about a great deal from store to store.

Chairman.] Do the natives in this part of the country cultivate with the hoe or the plough?

Mr. Borchers.] Up to two years ago only an occasional plough was used, but since then natives have taken to the plough to an enormous extent, especially upon the increase of their stock, and particularly this year. In the mountainous country picking is still done a great deal, but even there, if there are plenty of cattle, a large number of ploughs are

used. A great many have been sold in the Chewas district. The native is taking to more improved methods because he realises that his production is thereby considerably enhanced. At the back of it is the fear of being caught napping in times of scarcity. They are preparing for a rainy day.

Chairman.] In your observations of native life have you noticed whether there is a tendency among natives to develop pastorally rather than agriculturally?

Mr. Borchers.] They are developing along agricultural lines. There is greater development in agricultural than in pastoral pursuits. The Shangaans are absolutely an agricultural people. The Bawenda might tend a little more to sheep and goats, but otherwise, so far as I have observed, they are just the same as the Shangaans. The cattle they do rear even to-day is more for *lobola* purposes than anything else. Cattle are kept as a sort of bank in order to buy wives and food in starvation time.

Chairman.] What is the average annual increase per thousand?

Mr. Borchers.] The birth-rate, I should say, is something like 100 per thousand, and the death-rate about 30 to 40 per thousand, largely due to pneumonia. Nine out of ten cases are due to pneumonia. It is very common, arising from climatic conditions and neglectful rearing, and occurs chiefly among children up to one year. There are cases of pneumonia among the older people, but not nearly to the same extent.

Chairman.] When did you have a normal season as to rainfall last?

Mr. Borchers.] In 1909. The rainfall here then would have been from 40 to 45 inches. Since then the rainfall has gradually increased—or, as in 1914, increased to such an extent that the crops were ruined. For the last five years the native mealie crop has not been normal. The natives have suffered enormously, especially in 1912-13 and 1916-17, most of all in the Knobnose Location.

Chairman.] Why there particularly?

Mr. Borchers.] Because there, and in the immediate vicinity, the rainfall is abnormally low—I refer now to the country lying south-east from here, starting about 15 to 20 miles from here and stretching east and south-east. This dry country extends right up to the border. The rainfall there in the best of seasons has never been anything like the rainfall here. It is not exactly a dry country, but there is not sufficient rain there to secure circumstances which we call normal here.

Chairman.] What rainfall would be required in order to ensure a normal crop in that area?

Mr. Borchers.] If the rain is well distributed I should say about 15 to 18 inches would give you a sufficient crop. I really cannot say what the average rainfall there has been during the last five years, but it has been as high as 15 inches. During the last three years in the Singwitzi Game Reserve there has been no rain above 10 inches. In the Knobnose Location during the same period—apart from an abnormal rainfall in one year of 50 inches. I should estimate the average at about 15 inches. That is not sufficient to ensure a normal crop because it is so irregular. The rainfall is not well distributed. If well distributed it would be sufficient.

This condition is not of recent occurrence. It has always been so in my observations. So far as I know the natives have always suffered in that part from insufficient crops due to the irregular rainfall.

The soil in the Singwitzi is turfy. I cannot say whether it is of any depth.

Chairman.] It has been suggested in evidence that 50 per cent. of the Singwitzi is arable and productive.

Mr. Borchers.] Most decidedly not so far as I judge the country. In my opinion, only the river valleys, say, half a mile to a mile, on both sides of the rivers are arable and productive. The rivers I have in mind are the Singwitzi and the rivers running into the Singwitzi from both sides. There the soil is productive. I know that when the natives there put their backs to it and plough deep they get good crops. There is a sort of basin formation alongside the rivers. The rain stands in the deep places. This is not always to the advantage of the crops.

Chairman.] Taking the whole area, what would be the proportion of arable and productive ground under existing conditions?

Mr. Borchers.] I should say about 20 per cent.—for ploughing and picking purposes. That would be productive. Along the Singwitzi there are a good few natives, but there are very few fresh arrivals. The fresh arrivals, such as they are, come from the Rhodesian side. There conditions have been so bad, they have had to trek away.

The conditions in the Knobnose Location are very similar to those in the Singwitzi. I would make the same estimate as to the arability and productivity of the soil there as in the Singwitzi. I should say that about 2 per cent. to 3 per cent. of the Knobnose Location, no more, is irrigable. If any witness has said that 50 per cent. is irrigable I should be surprised. Of course, it depends upon what basis he calculates. A scheme costing a million of money would hardly irrigate 50 per cent. If there were pumping stations perhaps it might be done, but not by gravitation.

I would calculate the average normal yield of the Knobnose Location under existing conditions at about 10,000 bags of mealies.

Chairman.] How much cultivable land would be sufficient in the Knobnose Location and in the Singwitzi to sustain a native family of five?

Mr. Borchers.] About 3 morgen dry land.

Chairman.] How much is produced from a morgen of land in an average season.

Mr. Borchers.] Four to five bags, that is in a normal year. But in the last three years they have not produced that—3 bags during the last three years.

Chairman.] How much is produced round about here from a morgen?

Mr. Borchers.] During the last three years I should say the natives have harvested something like 6 bags to the morgen. The natives don't go in for fertilising. There is some superstition against it. I do not know the nature of the superstition, but it is shared by the Bawenda and the Shangaans. They believe that whoever puts up a furrow is bound to die. Laziness has also something to do with it. If the Government stepped in and initiated irrigation works the superstition might perhaps be overcome, but it is deep-rooted.

Chairman.] Do you care to offer any opinion as to whether the Beaumont Area is adequate to the needs of the present native population, and their increase for the next ten years to come?

Mr. Borchers.] The Beaumont line so far as I can see takes very good care that no good agricultural ground should fall into the native area. The existing locations with the exception of the Knobnose are good ground. If the Beaumont line is adopted I do not see how any future natives are going to get land for settlement.

The area between the green and yellow lines is very heavily populated. It is the most heavily populated by natives of any area I know. The farms occupied by these natives are largely owned by companies, except Mrs. Cooksley's and my own. Three-quarters are in the hands of companies, who make use of them for kaffir farming.

Chairman.] Are there any farmers besides Mr. Banks who can be described as personally and beneficially occupying land in that area.

Mr. Borchers.] Mr. Banks is the only one who has done good industrious work. He has made money out of it—selling tobacco to the natives. If he fell into the native area he would have far greater opportunities of developing that industry among the natives.

Chairman.] Have you seen Senthimula's and Khutama's locations?

Mr. Borchers.] I was once there many years ago. I cannot say I know anything about them.

Chairman.] If Senthimula and Khutama were prepared to shift, and were suitably and adequately provided for in the area between the yellow and green lines, do you think that would be a good arrangement, provided you do not appreciably disturb the natives already living there. The population of the locations is about 7,000.

Mr. Borchers.] Seven thousand natives could easily be placed here. Of course, I understand that when you shift them it does not necessarily mean that you will mix them up with the natives here.

I think such an arrangement would be in the interest of the white population, from a broad point of view, inasmuch as it completes territorial separation and gives the white people good ground along the railway.

The country between the green and yellow lines is malarious.

I do not think that Senthimula's and Khutama's people could be adequately provided for east and north-east of the Knobnose Location. They could not rear crops there, and that country, moreover, is regarded as Shangaan country.

Chairman.] Is there any possibility of suitable country being provided for them along the Mtali?

Mr. Borchers.] From what I have seen of that river, if the conditions are the same all along as they are higher up, I think the country is not suitable. Along the banks of the Mtali, and in the neighbouring country, the further you go the rockier it gets. The soil looks like gravel to me. To my mind it is not possible that 50 per cent. of that area can be cultivated. In Shukenedu and north of Makuya the crops are next to nothing. I know it, because the natives are always coming to my Shukimbu store to buy grain, even when they have got crops. I buy very largely from natives. I am the largest buyer—practically the only one. So that I can gauge production from my purchases.

The tributaries of the Singwitzi shown on the map do not exist in fact. They are dry courses. You find pools at varying distances, sometimes miles, sometimes a few hundred yards. I have never seen a flowing river in the whole of that area, except in summer time.

All the Singwitzi and the country to the north of the mountains is excellent for cattle.

Chairman.] Could the country be made habitable for the native by sinking boreholes?

Mr. Borchers.] Yes, if he developed agriculturally.

The natives are not improving to any extent in their habits of life. They are beginning to wear European clothing. They are buying individually more than they did 15 years ago. Their buying capacity has been doubled. There is a marked breaking away among the Shangaans from the old tribal system.

Groot Spelonken, Pietersburg, 22nd November, 1917

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN,
also about a hundred natives.

After the Chairman had addressed the meeting and explained the object and the scope of the Bill the following representative natives were heard.

JONATHAN TAKA: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Chief Ramagoep's location. I belong to the Mathloka tribe.

We are glad to see the Commission sent by the Government. We hope they will give us what we ask for. We are the children of the Government, and the Government should listen to us.

We are not in favour of the division of the country. We are opposed to it. Our Commissioner has told us what has been recommended, but it is not quite clear to us. We do not quite know what has been set aside for natives and non-natives.

Chairman.] I understand that your Commissioner has explained the line very clearly to you.

TAKA: That is true, but the country has not actually been pointed out to us. The chiefs say they were all born on the ground they are at present occupying. The Government gave us these locations where we are at present, but they are very small. They are not large enough to hold our people. The Government should make our locations bigger.

Chairman.] Can you show us how you want your locations extended. Ramagoep's and Matoks. We cannot guarantee that the Government will accept what you recommend.

TAKA: If I am to recommend an area for Ramagoep I would recommend the area recognised by the natives as Ramagoep's country, that is the area which runs from Dulkraal along the pencilled line on the map to Bandolierkop, and thence to Paardesmit, on the southern side from Winddam to Uitkomst along the pencilled line.

MPASHA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief and live in Matok's. I greet you. We are glad to see you here to-day. We have a lot of things to say to you.

This law was explained to us at Pietersburg, and three of us were elected as spokesmen, so that we could represent our views.

So far as the division of the country is concerned we are not satisfied. The Government should have pity on us. We know that when the Government made this law they made it to help us as well as the white people, but we, the children of the Government are crying because we see that this is going to be no help to us. We want the Government to leave us in the country where we were born. All our chiefs said the same thing—that they do not want this division of land. They wish to be left where they are. Otherwise they do not know where to go. We have not discussed which farms should fall within and which outside the native area. I know nothing of the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission. (The *Chairman* explains the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission so far as Matok's and Ramagoep's are concerned). That has already been explained to us, and we said it was too small. I cannot make any recommendations. I can say only what I have been instructed to say.

GERRIT MAPOTU: Examined by Chairman.

I am Chief of the Rapatele. There is something that grieves me very much. The chiefs have elected men to make representations, and now we find that they are making representations only with regard to their own particular localities. These people have been delegated to speak on behalf of all the chiefs, and now they speak only for their own chiefs.

MANELE: Examined by Chairman.

I speak for Chief Medjadje. We are not satisfied with the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission, because we have a lot of people. I cannot make any recommendation without my chief's authority. I do not even know the names of the farms.

RAMABOYA: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Ramagoep's. All I wish to say is that if you do extend our area you should extend it a good bit. I endorse Taka's recommendations.

MATOK: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief living in Matok's location. We chiefs would like to know what you intend to do with those of our people who are living on private farms. That is all.

MOKADIKA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief living in Matok's location. I wish to endorse the chief's remarks. Some of our people are living on private farms. If these farms should fall into the white area could provision be made for them to come into the native area? My people live chiefly in the neighbourhood of Mosterdhoek. Will provision be made for them with us, or where they are at present? We do not want to be cut off from our people. We should like to be together if possible. My recommendation is the pencilled line on the map, in order to carry all our people.

MAROKA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Matoka. My Chief is Peheka. I live on the farm Bronkhorstfontein. We feel this thing very much. We do not want to be shifted from where we are at present. We were born there, and grew up there, and should like to remain there. We cannot see in what way the Government is helping us by providing a separate area, because it is a lot of trouble to leave one place and go to another. We ask the Government to give us the area where we are at present, so that we can remain there. There are white people on some of the farms near me. The farm on which I live belongs to a company.

RAPATELE: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Matoka, and live on the farm Grootfontein, adjoining Bronkhorstfontein. I heard what the last speaker said, but I wish to say something also. I do not see how I can leave the country where I am at present. The place where we were born and our ancestors died is Boschkopshoek.

TSATI: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Bawenda, and live on the farm Insect. I have a lot of troubles. My country has been taken up, and I request that my country so far as it is recognised by natives should be given to me.

SEGOPO: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief, and I belong to Modjadje's tribe. I live in Segop's location. I ask that my location be extended, because we have trouble with our cattle straying on to the farms. I should not like to go into the country near Modjadje's. The Koetoes River is the boundary between me and Modjadje.

MAUPA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief. I belong to the tribe of Modjadje. I live at Pisangkop. Where I am living we all work on farms. You have given me no place to live. I cannot go down to the low country. We shall die as Moshesh' people died when they came down here. Give us a place to live where we are at present. We shall die if we are moved from here. It seems to me that you do not want us any more. We do whatever you tell us. Whatever work you give us we do. We do no wrong, yet now you chase us away and want us to die. You can leave us where we are. Here we can help each other, and can help you, too. After we have done all the work you tell us to quit.

MEGATO: I am a Mathloko, and live at Magatospruit. It seems to me that the white people are only considering the white people. They do not consider us natives at all. If they did consider us they would remove all the white people living in the country recognised by natives as our country. The Government wants to move the native away and give their country to other people. The white people came here from a different part. The Government should take them back to their country.

Duivilskloof, 23rd November, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

JOHAN DICKE: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Modderspruit, ward Klein Letaba. I am a farmer, and have resided here 26 years. I am opposed to the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission, as the existing areas are not too small.

I know the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission in my ward. Before giving evidence on the suitability of the areas I should like to put on record the views of the Farmers' Association. I was unanimously elected at a general meeting to represent the Association, the Low Country Farmers' Association. That Association is, in my opinion, representative of public opinion in this part of the country. They wish to have it put on record that in their opinion this law should not be touched at the present time, that it was a mistake to force it through the second reading, and that the third reading should be deferred until after the war, because though the question is purely of South African interest, parties are swayed by the war, which gives an Imperial aspect to the question. We recommend, therefore, that the third reading should not be proceeded with until six months after the war.

Chairman.] We shall place that on record, but at the same time it is not pertinent to our terms of reference.

Mr. Dicke.] Before going into the question of the areas themselves, I want in the second place to deal with the question of beneficial occupation within the areas. We consider that there is a great difference between the locations and native reserves under the old law, and those which are contemplated at present time. The terms of the grant should not be the same. It is not so much a law of segregation or native administration, it is a law of Native Land Settlement. And this law arose from the fact that people complained of natives hiring ground and being allowed to buy ground among white people. That decided the Government to set aside native areas where natives should be able to buy ground. We consider that the terms of lease and sale should be fixed in native areas. The terms in the native area should be different from those which prevailed in the old reserves. We suggest that if the native is to buy or lease ground these new native areas should be surveyed into plots just as any area would be surveyed in the case of white people. Natives should be allowed to buy these plots, but not every native. There should be a sort of Native Land Settlement Board. There is a vast difference between the native who is working his ground well in the white man's way and the native who takes everything out of the ground without replacing it. If a native has bought or leased a plot he must occupy it beneficially. He must pay a certain sum to acquire it as his property, and the Board must see to it that he does his duty by the ground. If he is not fit to occupy the ground beneficially he should not be allowed to have any. We do not think natives should have preferential treatment over white men. A white settler must produce testimonials that he is fit, that he has capital, and that he has the necessary qualifications. So why should a native be allowed to have land without these conditions? If the native is fit to work a farm properly like a white man he will be a credit to the country. In America, the black population, who are the main contributors to industry, do not get their holdings for nothing. In the same way here the native must pay for his ground, and the Board must see that he occupies beneficially. His lease should not be paid for in the way of an ordinary tax, as was the way in the old reserves. The plot will be his own once he has paid for it, but he must beneficially occupy. I have not thought over the question whether he should have absolute dominium. His title might perhaps be made subject to a clause that in case of rebellion or sedition his rights will be cancelled. That would, of course, not be absolute freehold. The Government should be able to impose any condition with regard to loyalty. I should advocate something in the nature of the conditions laid down by the Glen Grey Act. We want the Government to retain control. That would be sound principle. The main thing is that I would like to apply to the native the same conditions as those which apply in respect of the settler who takes up land from the Government. I am in favour of the individual tenure system as opposed to the communal system which obtains to-day in the locations.

I have considered the question whether the land proposed to be set aside is adequate and suitable for the scheme I have in mind. I should say that the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission are both adequate and suitable, having regard to the present native population and their increase for the next ten years to come. The areas in the Zoutpansberg and Pietersburg districts are about 3 millions of morgen. I think that is too much to throw open all at once.

Chairman.] How much is habitable from a native point of view?

Mr. Dicke.] Most of the country is not fit for closer settlement. It is really cattle country. The Shingwedzi Reserve and all this country along the Letaba and Malatotsi is grazing and ranching country. It is very fertile when it rains, but it rains once in ten years. If you start these areas now you would gain an absolutely wrong impression. It is looking better than it has looked for ten years past. Now every little spruit full, and the whole country side full of nutritious grasses—a land flowing with milk and honey, but come back after a month of sunshine and you will see all the mealies dried up, and nothing but dust. You will see splendid cattle at any time—even in mid-winter. It is very unfortunate that that country should be included in a native area. Give the native country in which he can exist. If he cannot exist the law becomes a farce, and at the same time you are locking up a lot of useful country which the white man could turn to account. I do not think the game reserve varies very much from the country immediately

adjoining it. The country I speak of is along the Klein Letaba, the Molototski southwards to Leydsdorp.

The Harmony Block is all companies' ground. There are two kinds of country there. On the mountain you find most fertile country, and the valleys and kloofs are full of water—splendid for irrigation. The rivers shown on the map do exist to a certain extent, and then disappear, but all along the mountains the country is beautiful. It is comparatively healthy there. Further north the country is similar to that previously described.

Chairman.] Is the country along the mountains occupied by natives?

Mr. Dicke.] Yes, native tribes are concentrated there more or less. That region is almost solely occupied by natives. It is not like the country round about here, where there are small communities of white people. There are many Shangaans in the area described by me. It is densely populated away from the rivers—along the Great Letaba and the Molototsi down to the junction of the two Letabas it is fairly extensively occupied by the Shangaan people. The Shangaan can live there. He is not an agriculturist. For a strictly agricultural population that country is not suitable. It is alright for the Shangaan. He depends upon Johannesburg for a living. What mealies he requires he buys, that is if his wife cannot grow any.

Chairman.] Assuming that the Shangaans are not an agricultural people, do you consider that the Shangaans further west would be prepared to move into that area?

Mr. Dicke.] I think they would probably object, because they have got into the habit of getting decent crops, and you would shift them into a country where they could not get any.

I think it would be better to throw open the country I have mentioned for white ranching schemes. It is an ideal ranching country, but then the question arises what area are you going to take away from the white people to give to the natives in exchange. All the really good country where white people can live has been taken up by white people.

Chairman.] Would you as far as possible endeavour to include in your proposed native area ground which is thickly and solely occupied by natives?

Mr. Dicke.] I think that is the only sensible solution. But then there is the further question whether, in declaring such ground a native area you are going to leave it as the white man's property or expropriate it. I think it is a wrong principle to allow the white owner to sell to five natives. The Government should take sole charge of the areas on terms such as I mentioned before. I do not want to see the native getting full title and removing control from the Government's into his own hands. I think the Government should expropriate. I have not thought out a scheme for raising the money required. But the Government should in any case get its money back. I think the Government should borrow the money, because it is capital expenditure. The money will come back. The Government should open up for the natives only so much ground as they can pay for. We don't think that 3,000,000 morgen are necessary in Zoutpansberg. If the Government is to spend money it should take great care how much ground it includes in the native area. I do think, however, that the Government should err on the side of liberality if the finances will allow of it.

In order to make a success of my scheme the land must lend itself to the scheme.

Chairman.] Would you be prepared to-day as representing the Farmers' Association to say how the area should run?

Mr. Dicke.] No. I cannot possibly do that. The Farmers' Association considers that all country suitable for white people should be reserved for white people. At the same time I quite see that you must set aside suitable country for the natives as well, provided it is set aside on reasonable terms. I cannot tell you what locality to choose. I do not know what ground the Government could take into their hands. The Government must come to some terms with the companies about it.

Chairman.] Have you experienced any difficulty in acquiring land from companies where you have a large number of natives squatting on such land and paying rent?

Mr. Dicke.] I don't think anybody has ever tried. I know, as a matter of fact, that companies are not prepared to dispose of land settled by natives.

I should like to say something with regard to leases. At the present time the native on Crown Lands pays £1 as rent. That is practically the same as he pays on a company farm. What kind of lease is the Government going to impose on a native within the areas. The law is silent on the point. Minister Mentz told us it would be something in the vicinity of £8. Some of us were satisfied with that answer. I am not. The point is this. The native who leases ground on an occupied farm is not allowed to pay money at all. He must work 90 days. That works out at £4 10s. per annum for living on the white man's farm. Now we don't want the native to be able to lease land in native areas on preferential terms. If a native can live in the native area for £1 a year the farm native will lose no time in trekking into that area. Therefore, when this Bill is brought up for the third reading we want the terms of lease within native areas to be such as not to prejudice labour conditions on the white areas. If the country is surveyed into plots and a native leases a plot for himself on the individual system, then, of course, the lease will

run to more than the equivalent of 90 days. That is why we object to the tribal system.

I have noticed that a native who leaves the location to squat on a farm becomes more individualistic in his tendencies than the native who remains in the location. He is very reluctant to go back to the location. As regards the natives on the farms we think that they should be encouraged in every way to keep up the labour supply on farms. We recognise, of course, that farming with a lot of boys under the 90 days system is not ideal. If there were any other system which would give us the requisite labour to work our farms—but there is no such system. We find that the man who does not keep labour tenants has very great difficulty in hiring boys. We must have labour tenants, because there is no other way of getting the cheap labour that is necessary. This being so we want natives to be encouraged to live on the farms, and we want it to be made as easy for them as possible. We should like to see the 10s. tax provided for in the Bill abolished altogether. We think that if a native is registered once and for all, and not every year, that would be quite sufficient. We object to a registration fee every year.

It is not a fair provision that a labour tenant cannot go to another farm, but must remain continuously on the farm upon which he happens to be at the commencement of the Act.

I do not see any reason why the country should not be ripe for service on a wage basis. At the present moment the prevailing system saves the farmer from disbursing actual money, but in a few years he will find that what he saves in money he is losing in land.

If a native cannot shift from one farm to another I take it that he cannot either come out of the area and lease ground from a farmer on the 90 days system. I do not think that is right. It is a wrong principle. A native should be allowed to come out of the area and work on the 90 days basis. I think that machinery could be created to check any abuse of the system. The abuse will check itself, because no man will have more natives on his farm than he requires for his purposes.

Now, as to the low country. When the Mamatola tribe of Basutos were shifted in 1896 into the Letsitele Valley, that is to say, from the mountains into the flats, they died in such numbers that there were hardly any left to bury the dead. That is a point to be considered if you wish to shift natives from the mountains into the flats. The mountain areas in the Harmony Block are as high as 6,000 feet. Down in the flats at Frankenstein the altitude is 2,400 feet. Natives are living there, also to the north. There are no Basutos in the flats. I think that natives from the high veld areas near Groot Spelonken could be accommodated anywhere in Harmony Block, and northwards, if they are not Basutos. The Basutos all stick to the mountain country, because they are an agricultural people, and look to the rainfall. The Shangaans again are developing pastorally. They have vast numbers of cattle; they buy grain.

Commandant Opperman.] Suppose the Government were to buy the land as you suggest, and the natives do not want to buy, what is then to become of the money expended and the interest?

Mr. Dicke.] If that happened it would show that the law was not necessary. The Government should not make the areas too large.

Mr. Boltman.] You said just now that the abuse of labour tenancy will check itself, will not the continuation of the system encourage kaffir farming.

Mr. Dicke.] So far as the native who works is concerned the abuse will check itself.

Chairman.] What is the average rainfall in the Harmony Block along the mountains?

Mr. Dicke.] About 36 inches.

Chairman.] And in the flats?

Mr. Dicke.] In the last ten years of drought it must have been something in the vicinity of 4 inches per annum. That applies too to the country to the North. I said just now that the Government should make the areas to meet the present position. I cannot see how you can demarcate areas which you don't possess.

Chairman.] Suppose you have a native on Farm A in a non-native area who finds that it is impossible for him to continue living there and who feels that the time has now come for him to have greater security of tenure, how would he have to proceed under your suggested system.

Mr. Dicke.] Well suppose you have 10 plots in a given area. The Government would advertise those plots for application. There might be 50 applicants. The Board would consider the applications on their merits and select the ten most suitable.

Chairman.] How many morgen are necessary to sustain a native family of five?

Mr. Dicke.] I cannot answer that question under present conditions. I think it is time that the native should conform to the general struggle for life. If a native could select his ground, and assuming that 4 bags of mealies for each member of the family is sufficient, I should say that 1 acre per person would be required, that is, say, 2½ morgen in all. Under present conditions I should say that a plot of 25 morgen would be required. Our ground is not fertile and they will have no means of fertilising it. They could live on less if they got their principal living from outside sources. One morgen produces anything from 8 to 20 bags. Four morgen would be enough if the ground were well fertilised. By a proper use of the soil a native would probably do tolerably well on 4

morgen. Under present conditions, however, I hold to my original estimate. The less ground you give the native the more useful he will become, provided there is some system of instruction and a Land Settlement Board. I am in favour of territorial separation as the only means of securing a white South Africa, but only if the Government expropriates the white owners.

Haenertsburg, 27th November, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.
Also about 200 Natives and Sub-Native Commissioner.

After the Chairman had addressed the Meeting, the following representative natives were heard:—

MAGABOYA: I am a Chief of the Bapedi and live in my location. I am not satisfied with my location. I want it extended. I leave it in your hands. I ask the Government to help me. I have told the Sub-Native Commissioner how I want my location extended. There is no pasture in my location.

DAVID MAGABOYA: Induna of the aforegoing spoke to the same effect.

LEGALIE: I am a Chief of the Bakone and live in my location. My location is very small and crowded. I ask that it be extended. I should like to have it extended towards Solomondale, including the farms Kalkfontein No. 144, Vierhoek No. 1517, Doornfontein and Hattingsburg.

ALPHENS KHOPA: I belong to the tribe of Mamabulo and live in his location. I hand in a letter which represents the views of my Chief and tribe. (Annexure attached).

Copy.

The Right Honourable General Louis Botha, P.C., M.L.A., Minister of Native Affairs.

The Right Honourable Sir,

We, the undersigned, chiefs and native farm owners, do hereby severally and collectively, beg to submit before the Minister for Native Affairs our humble request that whereas the Molopo, Mamabolo and Likhale Locations, in the district of Pietersburg, Ward Haenertsburg, and Mothiba's Location, in the same district, were scheduled native areas under Act No. 27 of 1913, whereas the said locations are close to one another, while there are few white people on the intervening farms, which are either Crown Lands or owned by private companies.

Whereas in the vicinity of the said locations there are several farms either owned or being bought by natives, such farms as Doornfontein No. 79, Cyferkuil No. 342, Spitzkop No. 660, and one or two farms near Molepo's location—Dikvrouw No. 395, etc.

And whereas Doornhoek No. 62 and Cyferkuil No. 103 are mission stations under the Berlin Mission Society, and in the said location referred to above, mission work is carried on by the Dutch Reformed Church (at Molopo), the United Free Church of Scotland (at Mamabolo), Molopo and Likhale, the Church (at Mamabolo), (and Motjibas), and Lutheran Church (at Likhale).

From this it will be seen that those locations and the districts around them are densely populated, and whereas those locations and farms and mission stations are not included in the recommendations of the Native Land Commission, and whereas the Crown Lands and farms owned by companies are occupied by natives, we humbly and respectly request the Minister to use influence as Prime Minister so as to cause the said locations and farms and Crown Lands adjoining them to be proclaimed native areas. Further we beg to submit that these lands are ancestral, and have been in occupation by natives for upwards of 200 (two hundred) years, while the locations were granted by the late S.A.R. We pray, therefore, individually and collectively that justice might be done to us.

We are the Right Honourable Sir,

Your most obedient and humble servants.

(Signed) Chiefs:—

S. MAMABOLO.
L. LEKHALE.
E. LIKHALE.
S. MOLEPO.

Farm Owners:—
JONAS MOGASHOA.
PETRUS ROPAPE.
JOSHUA MAGAGANE.
PHILIPUS ROPAPE.
JOHANNES GHUEU.
SOLOMON ROPAPE.
PAULUS ROPAPE.
NOAG MAGAGANE.
BETHUEL MAMABOLO.
MOSHE THEMA.
DAVID MAMABOLO.
SAMUEL RAMONYAI.
JOEL MOLOISI.
HERMAN MANKHA.

The farms adjoining the Mamabolo's Location are as follow:—

Klipstrip — Companies.
Cyferfontein — Mission Station.
Firfontein
Rietfontein
Middlekopje
Kleinfontein
Hardid
Mariber
Vrederust
Rondeklip
Driekopje
Berg Vlei

We humbly request the following farms to be joined to Mamabolo's Location.

N.B.—Rietfontein farm contains the graves of our Supreme Chiefs (in one or two forests). We ask therefore that a part of this farm where our noble fathers are buried should be sold to us, just a part of it, so as to leave it under our guardianship.

(Signed) SAM MAMABOLO.

MOLEPO: I live in Molepo's Location and am a Chief of the Batto tribe. We want the farms adjoining our location to be added to the location. Our fathers were born here. I put in a list of the farms.

Names of the farms in the neighbourhood of Molepo's Location:

1. Maclean.
2. Kleinfontein.
3. Laatstehoop (Mr. Wienand's Farm).
4. Dikvrouw.
5. Middlekop.
6. Laatste Hoop No. 363.
7. Mothibo's Kraal.
8. Doornveld.
9. Steelpadnek.
10. Jaskraal.
11. Groot Sprnit (Sekhoeng).
12. Molepo's Poort Senyokone.
13. Mokale Beilkop.
14. Ntjie (Mimosa).
15. Bloemfontein Moluve.
16. Maloka's Spruit (Mogabotse).
17. Segabaneng.

MAMATHLOLA: I am a chief of the tribe of the Naren and live in my location in the Beaumont Area. We want our location increased by the addition of the following farms according to the pencilled line on the map, viz.:— Ehlahne 2636, Pigeon Hole 2331, Rooibandfontein 2335, Nanowdale 2338, Fairview Hill 2339, Manavlim 2478, Lipwalo 2347, Vulihva 2360, Lengridge 2342, Mamathola 2341, Tubbs Hill 2344, Murlebrook 2343.

MAMIETJE: I am a chief of the Bakoni and live in Mabin's Location. Our location is not fertile. We want it extended towards Strasburg 167. For five years we have had no food in the location. We have ploughed but have had no food because of the drought. Alle we ask is the land where our fathers died—Strasburg and the farms included in the red line on the map, viz: the farms Turkey No. 178, Satowa 166.

MOHLABA: I am a chief and a Zulu.

We are crying for land because our locations are small. Our people are living outside our location and we want the location extended. The farms we want included are Burghersdorp, Dusseldorf, Berlin, Coblentz and Bellevue. They are Company farms and are not occupied by white people. We also want the Government ground between Letaba and Rooiwater.

The farms I refer to are exclusively occupied by my people. There are no white people. I am asking for the place where my father was buried, *i.e.*, the eastern portion of Manarum No. 2478. It is a farm belonging to a white man, a settler named George Taylor.

Mabusa, one of my ancestors, came from Zululand. He was driven away from there by Chaka and went into Portuguese East Africa. Seklelane succeeded him. Ngkwasa succeeded Seklelane. Sulubane, my father, succeeded Ngkwasa. He came into the Transvaal with a portion of the Shangaans and established his kraal where I am living now. We have been 78 years among the Basuto.

SIHHOKE: I am a Shangaan chief and live on the farm Jaffrey No. 257. I have no location and I ask that one be given to me. The farm I am living on is Crown Land. My people are scattered all over the country. They pay rent. I want my land to be where I am living now. I was born there. (N.B.—Apparently about 70 years ago).

MAMETWA: I am a Shangaan chief and live in my location. The location is very small and I want it extended right down to the Tabana Matuku River to where it joins the Letaba and thence along the river between the yellow and green lines.

MAAKE: I am a chief and live in Maake's Location. My location is very small and I want it extended towards the Selati River. There are natives of mine living in that direction now, many natives. I should like my location to be bounded on the north by the road to Leydsdorp thence southwards to the Selati. I am referring to the old road shown on the map. My people have been living there a long time ever since I can remember.

MAMAKOLOLO: I am a Shangaan Chief and live on the Rudoo River. I ask the Committee to give me land where I am now and where my people are living.

MAKUBA: I am a chief and live in my location. The location is very small and I ask that it be extended. I do not want to come up this way. I want my ground to be where I am living now. The country where I am now is not very good. My father and grandfather came from Portuguese East Africa to live there.

MATABATA: I am a Chief of the Bathloa. I ask that my location be extended. Mpathele is not a relation of mine. We are not related to any tribe in the vicinity.

NAGUMBI: I represent Chief Secororo, and live in his location. My Chief has sent me to say that his location is very small and that he would like to have it extended so as to include the farms Metz 165, Balloon 186, Schelem 161, Toul 181, Lorraine 183, and Paris 180. Our people are many. They are living on these farms. They were born there. There is not much fever there. There is only one white man—on Balloon, a storekeeper. The farms belong to companies. My people pay rent.

MAFEFE: I am a Chief, and live in my location. The location is too small. The cattle have not enough pasture. It is mountainous country. I should like the location extended southwards all along the Olifants River. Most of the farms there are Crown land. My people are living there now. They have lived there ever since I can remember. They pay rent to the Government. We want all the Crown land along the Olifants.

The Miehlapietsi River runs through my location. There is no water in it.

MASEKA: I am a Chief, and live on the Selati River. I am in difficulties. I am on a Government farm and pay rent to the Government. My difficulty is that my people run away from paying rent. They go to the locations of other chiefs and so avoid paying rent. I want to overcome that difficulty by having a small location of my own.

I should like to have my location where I am living now.

ENOCH PIETER DIETLEFFS: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer living at Bergplaats Ward, Haenertsburg. I have come here to answer any questions that the Committee might put to me. I live near Mamabolo's Location.

Chairman.] Have you any suggestions to make with regard to the location, whether it should be removed or left where it is?

Mr. Dietleffs.] I should suggest that it remain where it is. I don't suggest that it will be big enough in the future. It is big enough, at any rate, for the present.

I am not looking at this question politically. I am regarding it from a personal point of view. All day long natives from the location are passing through my gates on their way to work for white people. The natives are a great asset to us. Therefore, I want the location to remain where it is to supply us with labour.

Chairman.] Don't you think it is a disadvantage to have little, black islands dotted about in the white area?

Mr. Dietleffs.] I look at the matter from the point of view of my neighbourhood. It is easy enough now for us to obtain labour at any time. If the location were removed, where should we obtain labour. It would be too far away. I have not studied the matter very carefully but, in general, I should say that farmers are of opinion that if there must be an increase of native areas let it be an increase of existing locations. It is safer for us if the natives live in a ring surrounded by us whites.

Where the natives are now in their locations is the best place for them. They are planted there and have lived there for generations.

ANDRIES JACOBUS DAMES: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer living on Veekraal No. 1619. I want to give evidence on the question of labour as affected by native areas.

In the early days when we came here there were no natives on the mountains. Those who are here now have come because it was difficult for them down below. My opinion is that if the natives are removed from here, we will find it more difficult than ever to obtain labour. The natives will prefer to go to Johannesburg where they are paid more than a farmer can afford. The natives in the locations to-day and the natives living on farms will follow their chiefs into the areas. It would simply mean that we should have to give up farming.

Mamabulo has a farm which is separated by three farms from his location. It is an excellent farm for sheep; unfortunately, the natives paid a huge price for it; £3,000 for 700 morgen. It is the farm Spitzkop. My suggestion is that if the natives are to be put on one side, that farm be exchanged for another adjoining the location.

Commandant Opperman.] Do you want the location to remain?

Mr. Dames.] I should prefer to see more land added to the location rather than that it should be moved to the native area.

Chairman.] Do you not think it would be to the advantage of the district to expropreate the location?

Mr. Dames.] No. It is not specially suited to white people.

Chairman.] What is the value of ground in the neighbourhood of Mamabulo's location and Haenertsburg?

Mr. Dames.] I should say about £2 per morgen.

I think that the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission are, in general, large enough. But I would like to recommend that, for the sake of the labour supply, both Mamabulo's and Legahe's Locations be made native areas. If the locations were removed to a distant area it would mean that we would be absolutely deprived of labour.

I should like to add a few words with regard to license moneys provided for in the Bill. If the Committee would deal with this matter in their report it would be a great assistance to us. The natives cannot pay, and the farmers will have to, and it will be a source of great difficulty. It might even cause farmers to give up farming altogether. It is taxing the farmer through the native. We want the license to be withdrawn. As it is, in my own case, I am paying my natives' taxes now.

Commandant Opperman.] Don't you think it would be better to have one registration once and for all instead of one every year?

Mr. Dames.] I prefer not to suggest any specific amendment of the law. What we want is that the license be withdrawn.

DANIEL CHARLES ALLISON: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer and live at Smitsdrift, Ward Woodbush.

I do not think that the locations should fall into the white area. One reason is that when they are eventually removed we shall be deprived of all our labour. I think that the natives living outside the locations would follow their chiefs if the locations were abolished and the chiefs had to move into a native area. The same thing happened in the Free State. My opinion is that these locations should remain as they are and be made a native area.

Chairman.] Dont you think it is prejudicial to white farmers to have little black islands all over the country in among white settlements and that there would be constant friction between the white farmers and the natives?

Mr. Allison.] I have not experienced that.

Chairman.] If these chiefs were provided for somewhere else would the natives not still come out to work among the farmers?

Mr. Allison.] No, not from a long distance.

Under present conditions they can go back to the locations at night. The locations are only of benefit to the immediately surrounding farmers. They go backwards and forwards to work even a distance of 6 miles.

With regard to the licence moneys payable under the Bill I protest against the farm owner being responsible therefor. I think the native should be made responsible.

HARLEY DALY MAURICE STANFORD: Examined by Chairman.

I am Sub-Native Commissioner at Haenertsburg and have occupied that post for 7 years. Before that I was at Rustenburg and Pilansberg for 9½ years.

I have 16 native locations in my sub-district, 8 of which fall into the proposed white area. In exchange the natives have received some most uninhabitable country along the Olifants River, that is between the Olifants River and the green line on the map. It seems to have been the intention of the Beaumont Commission that the natives whether high veld or low veld were to be shifted to that area. I was the first white man to go into that country and from Gibraltar and Ostend to Mamietjes in an area roughly 85 square miles I came across only one level stretch, about 200 yards, and that could not

be cultivated. The rest is all mountains and bush. Most magnificent streams come from the Dolomiti in the Drakensberg but it is impossible to use them. The country is so broken and rocky. The Beaumont Commission never visited that area. They did not act upon the advice of one single witness so far as my area is concerned. Great dissatisfaction was expressed by the natives and they at once said that it would be better to shoot them than drive high veld natives into the low veld where they must inevitably perish of starvation or fever.

I have been able in my own mind to decide what areas should be set aside for the present native population together with their increase for the next ten years to come. It is impossible to make a complete area with the exception of the area on the northern bank of the Letaba River. It would be impossible to move Legalie Mamabulo and Molepo from their present locations and find any other adequate or possible ground for them anywhere else in my area. I have very little high veld indeed. The only high veld I have are the Haenertsburg and Agatha Areas. They are very thickly populated indeed by natives some of the most thickly populated country we have. So that it would be impossible to find any ground for these three tribes anywhere in my area because they are high veld natives.

So far as Mamabulo and Molepo are concerned I think the idea of the Bill is to put these natives into blocks. Legalie's is isolated and there may possibly be room for him between the locations of Malietsie, Matala and Machichaan. Legalie's is very poor soil, very heavily cultivated. The soil has been depleted of sustenance because it is against the superstition of the native to put any dung with his food. He will not fertilise. I have been informed that Legalie is related to Malietsie. Possibly he could be provided for there without causing any trouble or friction. The land may be suitable there.

Chairman.] With regard to Mamabulo's and Molepo's, have you in mind the increase of those areas?

Mr. Stanford.] Yes, I would recommend that the farms Vrederust 1889, Mariba 1888, Smitsdrift 382, Laatstehoop 886, Maclean 857, Kleinfontein 632, Vierfontein 397, and the northern portion of Rondeklip 2452 should be included in the native area, joining up Mamabulo's and Molepo's. At present there are no lands for Mamabulo's people and no grazing for their cattle, and there is no grazing for Molepo's cattle. I might state in this connection that I have spoken to most of the owners of these farms and I do not think there is any objection at all to their being placed within the native area. Most of these farms are beneficially occupied by Europeans who carry on stock farming. The farms are being developed by natives.

Chairman.] Are these natives rent-paying squatters?

Mr. Stanford.] Allison on Smitsdrift receives rent and has labour tenants. The same applies to Dietleffs. A large number of natives hire grazing from Dietleffs. Dietleffs' farms are Vrederust, Mariba, Hardetijd and half of Rondeklip. Laatstehoop belongs to Lawless.

The area along the Molepo River is occupied by a large number of white farmers who are farming very successfully. The top of the Haenertsburg is heavily settled by white people and they are trekking in practically every day.

Chairman.] Where did the people of Mamabulo and Molepo come from?

Mr. Stanford.] Originally from the north as the result of starvation and drought—about 200 years ago. None of these natives work in the low veld. The altitude of Mamabulo's and Molepo's is about 4,000 feet. The altitude of Harmony Block is 2,400 feet. The altitude of the area between the green lines north of the Letaba is about 2,400 feet.

Chairman.] Is there Malaria at Mamabulo's and Molepo's?

Mr. Stanford.] After heavy rains there is fever, on which occasions a tremendous number of the natives die. It is simply because they are born on the high veld and have not got the parasite of the Malaria in their blood. The low veld natives have the parasite in their blood.

The population of Molepo's is 4,850, of Mamabulo's 2,800.

Chairman.] What population belonging to both chiefs occupy the farms which you propose to be added to the native area?

Mr. Stanford.] I shall give you these particulars later. They are in many cases labour-tenants. It is necessary also to take into consideration that Mamabulo has 220 large stock and 8,000 small. Molepo 270 large stock and 18,500 small. The area of Molepo's location is 15,304 morgen and of Mamabulo's 4,933 morgen, that is under 2 morgen per head of family for Mamabulo's people, and 3 morgen for Molepo's.

Chairman.] Taking Molepo's location and soil conditions together with the rainfall what number of morgen under present conditions would be sufficient to sustain a native family of five?

Mr. Stanford.] I should say 6 morgen in both Molepo's and Mamabulo's locations. Under existing conditions both locations are inadequate to the needs to the people at present actually living there.

The total area of the additional farms which I propose to add is about 15,000 morgen. The soil in both locations is poor. Mamabulo's is better than Molepo's. Both contain a

great deal of rocky ground. I should say that about 70 per cent. of both locations is arable. The birth rate is 2 per cent. per annum—say, 20 per cent. in ten years. I am afraid the area I propose is not suitable and adequate for the increase, but I understand that the Pietersburg district officers will recommend a portion lying to the west of the farms I have enumerated. I think that will be adequate to the needs of the natives for the next ten years to come. Of course, the stock is going to be a difficulty. In five years they have doubled. Small stock has trebled. Once suitable areas have been provided the development of the natives' pastoral pursuits will have to be so ordered as to comfirm to the ground they have. Our difficulty is that native law is still in existence and that a man cannot get a wife until he produces his stock. The natives are still living under tribal conditions. I think the question of stock will always prove a difficult matter.

Chairman.] Broadly speaking, are the natives in your district developing pastorally or agriculturally?

Mr. Stanford.] So far as the Bapedi are concerned they are going ahead agriculturally. The Shangaan, in the majority of cases, is a Nomad. He goes to Johannesburg and leaves his family for five or six years at a time. He has no thought for the future. Broadly, so far as this area is concerned, neither Shangaan, Zulu, nor Bapedi is much more advanced than a baboon. I might say that when we took the census we had to catch our native before we could enumerate him. They have very little in the form of flocks or herds. They have fixed places of abode because we have not allowed them to move. But they would like to be moving continually if they had the opportunity. Circumstances prevent them from being nomadic.

Chairman.] Do you think that, if areas which are malarious could be freed from malaria, there would be serious objection to either black or white being settled in the lower-lying parts?

Mr. Stanford.] For many years to come it will be an absolute impossibility. The greater portion of the malarious territory is heavily watered. Pools are left in which the mosquito can breed. We have heard lately that they breed, too, in the Marulo tree, and that tree is never cut down by the native. Then, again, the greater portion of the country to the east of Thabina and north of the Letaba is intensely hot 120 degrees in the shade, and, in addition to malaria, there is blackwater. Every white man who has ever trekked into the harmony block and remained there for any length of time is dead. On Burgersdorp 7 white men died. The natives don't get blackwater, and only slight attacks of malaria. The natives in Harmony Block are comparatively healthy.

My district runs to where the Molepo joins the Olifants, thence practically following the river to the western boundary of Molepo's and including Molepo's, Mamabulo's and Legalie's. There is a yellow area on the map adjoining the green one. I recommended that area. I recommended it because I did not think that white people could exist there. The Olifants could not be taken out for irrigation without pumping. The banks are 30 to 40 feet high. There are some white people living there—between the yellow and green lines; about 8 families. They have developed enormously since I made that recommendation to the Beaumont Commission. They have a stream running down from the mountain called the Mokapitsi. Some of them have done wonderfully well there. They have had magnificent wheat harvests since I made that recommendation. They are paying £5 an acre to any one who will clean out the bush. One of them reaped 1,200 bags of wheat. The area is situated below the berg. It is very rocky in places, but the valleys and the alluvial ground along the Olifants provide excellent soil for wheat.

Chairman.] If that country is good for wheat, I take it that would also be true of practically the whole of the country along the Olifants down to the Pothwani Area.

Mr. Stanford.] I should not care to express an opinion. From Lot 283 to 256 wheat does magnificently, but people die there of Malaria. Nevertheless, there are a fairly large number of white people living there now, about twelve families.

We find that in every instance where land has been left to natives, it is not much good for wheat, because there is no water that can be led on to it. The other farms can be irrigated.

Chairman.] Is there any further area that could be irrigated?

Mr. Stanford.] Yes. The small lot just in the hollow of the hills on the farm Tubex is producing excellent wheat. From Tubex to Matefe's location to the north, is one huge mass of mountains where natives can "pick" small patches, but where no white man could farm owing to the rocky nature of the ground. That means that practically all the farms riparian to the Olifants are suited to wheat growing; that is, within the area I have just mentioned. Anything further north is not suited, though there are parts where natives can use the hoe.

Chairman.] In view of the possibilities for wheat growing, do you now recommend that the area between the yellow and green lines should now be excluded?

Mr. Stanford.] Yes, provided Matabata's is cut into the native area. Between Matabata's and Matefe's there are very few natives. I recommended the inclusion of the area, in the first instance, because there were patches which could be used by the natives of the locations. Any extension of Matefe's location should be in an easterly direction between the green line and the Olifants. Matabata's should remain a native area. He requires ad-

ditional grazing for his stock. At present he runs his stock on Lots 252, 262, 261, and 264; very mountainous country which no white man could use. I would recommend the inclusion of that area for his stock. The extent of his location is 2,026 morgen, and the population is 620. Sixty per cent. of the location is mountain. About 40 per cent. is arable, *i.e.*, about 6 morgen per family. That will be enough for the next ten years.

Matefe's location is 5,765 morgen in extent. The population is 1,657 souls. Seventy-five per cent. of the location is mountainous. The remainder is arable and productive, with streams running through it which are capable of being used to produce excellent wheat. At least 200 morgen can be placed under wheat cultivation. The natives live on the slopes and cultivate on the bottoms.

The farms from Nice to Ostend are not suitable for wheat cultivation. The country is very mountainous and rocky. There are only a few patches between the green line and the Olifants that can be cultivated at all. From Matefe's down to Mabins about 15 per cent. would be arable and productive. Only very wild natives are living there now. Cattle do well there and in the whole of this area.

My sub-district on the east comes up to the Molimtotsi River. The yellow line running down that river past Modjadje's on to the north-eastern boundary of Mohlaba's was the area recommended by me. My opinion was that a large number of natives who were living on the south of the Groot Letaba River and a number who were paying crown rents on Rooiwater might be moved to the north bank.

Chairman.] Do you think these natives could be shifted?

Mr. Stanford.] Yes. I thought they would be glad to move and get a settled home.

The farms in the area from Uitzoek down to Vrede are beneficially occupied by whites. I do not recommend their inclusion in a native area.

By including the area between the Molimtotsi and the Letaba you would accommodate Chief Sihoka who is living on the farm Jaffrey, a big Induna of Mohlaba's living on Hoek, and about 2,000 other natives. I would include Mohlaba's other locations with a portion of Monarein, on which are the graves of Mohlaba's ancestors, and which the owner is prepared to sell to Mohlaba. It is not good for cultivation, but it is a matter of sentiment.

Chairman.] What number of natives are living within the yellow lines described by you excluding the scheduled locations?

Mr. Stanford.] I shall give the information later. There are 5,700 living on the southern banks of the Letaba whom I propose should be shifted to the north bank. The total population within the yellow lines right down to Maake's location is approximately 16,600.

The number of natives living in Scheduled locations within the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission is 17,763, and in locations outside the Beaumont Area, 7,043.

With reference to the natives in the Harmony Block, of whom there are 14,000 paying rent, I would ask the Committee either to put the whole of the Harmony Block into the native area or give a certain section of farms, say, two-deep, adjoining the present native line of Areas 6 and 7. That would leave a small section of farms in the Harmony Block open.

The locations of Maake, Mohlaba and Mogaboya, especially the first and the last are absolutely overcrowded. The locations of Seuroro and Mamietje are so bad that not even the companies would take them from the old Republican Government. The greater portion of Maake's and Mogaboya's locations is composed of mountains. Mogaboya's, including the mountains, is 6,939 morgen in extent and its population is 4,025 souls; 30 per cent. of the location is arable. Maake's is practically the same. Mohlaba's is a better location, but they are increasing very fast, and that fact that so many thousands of Mohlaba's people live outside the location, proves that there is absolutely no room for them or their stock. They also inhabit several farms in the Harmony Block and pay rent to companies.

The Harmony Block is practically all owned by companies. There is not one white man upon it with the exception of a storekeeper. It is magnificent country. Practically the whole of it is arable and productive. It is 450 square miles in extent. It is magnificently watered from the Drakensberg. The rivers run all the year round very strongly. As a cattle-ranching proposition I do not think you could beat it in the world. But the temperature goes up to 120 degrees in the shade and blackwater and malaria are very prevalent. Natives don't get blackwater.

I propose that the whole of the Shingwetzi Reserve be cut out of the native area. For the last 30 years the natives have had every opportunity of moving into the Sabi and the Shingwetzi and to-day there are practically only 25 families on an area 3,000 square miles and they cannot make a living except by killing game. It very seldom rains there. It is good cattle country along the rivers but the greater portion of it is dry. It is suited to ranching and bore-holes are possible. Apart from the temperature and the danger of fever it would be excellent ranching country for white people.

At Thabina the highest temperature I have known is 113. Duivelskloof the highest I have heard of is 108 degrees. I think it is absolutely impossible for women and children to live in country like the Harmony Block. Dawson, by taking every precaution managed to live there for 21 years. He died at last of blackwater. He had had bad attacks of fever repeatedly.

I make my recommendations with regard to the Harmony Block because I consider that that country is unsuited for white people. I dare say the companies will object to its inclusion in a native area, but they themselves ever since they received the Harmony Block in exchange for one church stand at Rustenburg—I am open to correction—have handed it over to the natives entirely. Natives have been there ever since before it was surveyed. They are practically indigenous. The companies have practically locked up the country because the farms were producing such magnificent revenue from natives. There have been cases where Europeans have wanted to buy but the companies have refused to sell. I consider that there would be no prejudice but a considerable benefit to the companies if the block were included in a native area. I am quite certain that for years to come there is no possibility of the white man living there. I do not think Panama Canal methods would apply to blackwater which is not conveyed by the same agent as malaria. For the purpose of opening up that area I have endeavoured to obtain a remedy for blackwater but all they can say is "You must not live in the neighbourhood of the natives and you must not get malaria."

By the inclusion of the areas I have recommended to-day the needs of the natives will be met adequately and suitably.

Chairman.] Are your farmers well supplied with labour?

Mr. Stanford.] Yes. There is no difficulty. We have a small farming population. The number of farms in my area beneficially occupied by Europeans is 225.

Chairman.] What would be the number of labour-tenants per farmer?

Mr. Stanford.] It is very difficult to say. Ninety-eight per cent of natives working on farms are labour-tenants.

Chairman.] If the area recommended by you were adopted would there be any prejudice to the labour question?

Mr. Stanford.] So far as I am concerned the majority of the natives living on the high veld would not move to the area if it meant living the high veld. Practically all the farmers are in the high veld.

The natives go out very largely to work on the mines. Quite 70 per cent of the males. A few work on the farms when they get too old for the mines. The farmers allow their 90 days boys to go out to work. There has been some trouble about that.

Our farmers are all pioneers. It as a rule is the poor man who comes to these parts where he can buy cheep land to settle on. So we are bound to assist them as much as possible to make a living. For such persons native wage-service is not an ideal condition. At the present time there are a very large number of farmers who, with the assistance of natives working on the 90 days system just manage to get a living, and a poor living at that. We are 36 miles from the nearest railway. Our district has been under East Coast Fever regulations for 9 years and will probably remain so for ten more. I recommend that the 10s. licence on labour tenants be withdrawn from the bill. The labour-tenants system is a bad one but I say that having regard to the circumstances of the average farmer, the system should be continued until there is a substantial economic improvement.

Chairman.] Is it not true, in many instances, that farmers have more labour tenants on their farms than are necessary.

Mr. Stanford.] So many go away and remain away for years. It is a matter of valuation. The system came from the Colony. In the Free State now every farmer is paying his labourers. Our native is practically a baboon. It takes years to teach him to be of any use at all on a farm. He is not a very valuable asset, but he is all we have. I say we must assist the unfortunate poor farmer to live. You put a 10s. tax on the native which the farmer has to pay. He will try to get the 10s. out of the native if the native will remain on the farm. The effect will be to drive the native off the farm.

Chairman.] Don't you think, as a native administrator of some experience, that there will be considerable difficulty in administering these areas dotted all about the white area? Would it not facilitate the administration of native affairs if, so far as possible, the areas were all linked into one?

Mr. Stanford.] That is so, but I am not in favour of the alteration of present conditions. If the bill becomes law these separate areas will be administered according to the law in the larger areas, that is, under the bill. Natives living outside will be administered according to the law of the country in which they live. That is an unworkable scheme. If this law comes into operation as proposed it means that the native in the white area would not go on with his old tribal laws and conditions. Parliament knows nothing about our wild natives. The native who is not in his location still feels bound to his old tribal law and customs. There is practically no civilisation.

There are one or two other points not strictly within your terms of reference with which I should like to deal. First of all, in connection with yearly contracts. That is practically an impossibility. Then, again, with regard to the purchase of land by not more than five natives, if that is insisted upon, natives will be absolutely unable to buy one inch of ground in my area. They are still quite wild and uncivilised. It would take ten years to get a very small section of country cut up to enable natives to buy. If you confine it to five people there will be no purchasing of land in the areas set aside. The cost of survey alone would be prohibitive from the point of view of our natives. From

another section of the bill it seems that if a native who is a labour tenant moves from the farm into a location he cannot come out and become a labour-tenant again. I am opposed to that.

Another thing I should like to recommend in connection with the bill, is that no undivided portion in any of these areas should be sold either to white men or to black. If sold it should be divided. When a farm is owned on undivided shares by natives and Europeans, the position is impossible, the native having as much right on the white man's portion as the white man himself.

I have so much to do with farms which have been purchased by natives that I am sure that no man who has anything to do with them will believe that once a native has bought a farm he will ever sell it again. So native-owned land in the white area will never be alienated.

Chairman.] Would you say that there is no room for individual tenure by natives in your area?

Mr. Stanford.] I should say that not more than 2 per cent. of my natives are ripe for individual tenure. There are individual tenure natives, but not in my area. My point is that where you insist upon not more than five natives purchasing, these five natives usually purchase in their own name, but representing a large number of others. There is a danger then of the unfortunate natives who have subscribed losing their rights. The only way we can populate the area I have recommended is by purchase, and there are no five natives in my area who can buy unless the land is cut up into very small lots—a most expensive process.

I should like to tell the Committee, in conclusion, that the Harmony Block is occupied equally by Basutos and Shangaans. You might think from Mr. Duke's evidence that you could not put Shangaans into the area.

Pietersburg, 28th November, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

JOHANNES WYNAND DANEEL: Examined by Chairman.

I am a missionary at Mara, in the Zoutpansberg district. I wish to give evidence on the division of land in the Zoutpansberg district.

I know the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission. My objection to Area 5 is this. It is a very large area but there are half a million kaffirs in the two districts to be provided for. The greater part of the area is waterless. I do not know the area to the north, but so far as I have learnt, it is unoccupied. It is a desert. What I fear is that it might be represented that a huge area is being given to the natives without enough notice being taken of the quality of the area. My experience is this, that if you remove natives from the high veld to the low veld, they succumb more easily to fever than white men because they have not the advantage of taking the same precautions. They die terribly under such conditions.

My idea is to exclude the portions which I say are unsuitable for native occupation. I am in favour of the exclusion of the Singwedzi Game Reserve, and also of the area to the north of Area 5. I would propose that a portion which can be occupied should be given them in exchange for the very large portion which is of no use at all. I think the Shangaan portion of the native poulation would be entirely satisfied in the area south-west of the Beaumont Area, *i.e.*, between the green and the yellow lines on the map but, at the same time, I think further provision should be made for the Basutos to the west of the yellow line.

With regard to Senthimula's and Khutama's locations, I would propose that they remain as they are so that provision may be made for the Bawenda in that locality. I do not think Kibi would be content to go into that location. The Basuto in my mission would be content there.

Generally speaking, where the ground is inferior, the occupation of whites is not so thick, that is, to the south. (Chairman states that the farms adjoining Senthimula and Khutama are all taken up and are considered to be some of the best farms in the Zoutpansberg). My objection is that, that behind the mountains the ground is useless to the natives for any purpose. The rainfall is very little to the north of the mountains. I cannot say how much.

I am not in a position to say how the area should be extended, but I fear that some provision should be made for the Basutos who live in the western part of the district. The Committee will, no doubt, be in a better position to decide.

There are a large number of farms to the south of the location which are unoccupied. These, I think, might be used to make such provision, but I do not think they are suffi-

cient. It is fairly dry there. I think provision should be made for the Basuto who is not disposed to move into the proposed area. I cannot say how many Basutos there are in the western portion of the district. Of these Basutos some came from Basutoland, others from Matietsie. Others who speak Basuto came from the Zambesi. They do, to some small extent, intermarry with the Bawenda. I am in favour of the inclusion of the area between the green and yellow lines.

There is no other representation that I wish to make.

By Commandant Opperman.] What do you think of putting the native area into the west of the district and making the present proposed native area a white area, taking the southern boundary of the native area in a direct line from Mpefu's location to the western boundary of the district? The area you refer to is no place for cultivation. It is absolutely impossible for native occupation. Natives exist to a large extent on cultivation.

ANDRIES STEFANUS DAVID ERASMUS: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, living on the farm Kroon, in the Pietersburg district. I want to give evidence regarding Areas 2 and 3. I am satisfied with Area 2, except as regards the southern line. I object to the inclusion of the farm Palmietfontein, which belongs partly to white men and partly to natives. I think the line should run from Schaffhausen in a direct line to Borchen No. 1019, as near as possible. Otherwise I am satisfied.

The farmers on the borders of Area 2 have had a meeting, and they want Matietsie's out of the native area because there are white people all round.

By Commandant Opperman.] The farmers agreed to the line I suggest. They think that provision could be made for the natives in Matietie's location, and for those excluded by the suggested line inside the remainder of the area. They will have a better means of livelihood within that area than there they are at present. There is good fertile ground and a good deal of water. There is not so very much water in the eastern portion of Area 2, but there is a lot in the western portion, which is a great deal better than Matietsie's. Practically the whole of the portion that I want cut off is arable. The average value of ground in Area 2 is difficult to fix, but I should say about £1 a morgen. It is about the same in Matietsie's. (Don't you think it would be better to have your line in such a way that Matala's location adjoins the native area?) No. I would rather see Matala's cut off altogether because of the large number of white men in the neighbourhood. I think the inhabitants of Matietsie's, Matala's and Machichaan's Locations could find room in Area 2.

I think there is enough room too for the natives of the other locations in the district. In any case, there is room in that part of area 2 which falls within the Waterberg district.

The ground to the west of Area 2 is just as good as the ground within the area. There are not many natives there. It is fairly dry. The soil varies. Some of it is sandy, some compact. The area is feverish but there are white people living there. There are a good many white people living in the bush-veld.

By Chairman.] (Is it not a fact that ground in Area 2 is worth only 7s. 6d. a morgen?) No. I think it is worth £1. The farm Lonsdale just outside the area was sold recently for £1 10s. 0d. a morgen. In the portion of Area 2 which falls within this district there are, I understand, seven to eight thousand natives. There are not many white people within the area. (Would it not be better to retain the whole of Area 2 for natives seeing that there are so few white men within the area?) Perhaps that might be so. The natives who are excluded by my suggestion I should put into the remainder of the area, as well as all the natives to the south of the area including natives in Matietsie's. I think the 15,000 natives could be accommodated in the area I propose. There is a good deal of water in the western part of the area especially along the Mahelokwin. In the central portion of the area the water is mostly in wells. The Brak River is not a permanent stream. It runs only when it rains

The area I suggest is about 75 by 60 miles. The natives living there are Blaauwburg natives. Matietsie's and Matala's natives are a different tribe but I do not think there will be any difficulty because there will be plenty of room. The location natives will have ten times as much room inside the area as where they are at present. The rainfall within the area is about the same as at Pietersburg—normally I should say about 20 inches. The last good crop was about 3 years ago. Natives have lived there for nearly 50 years. I do not know where they came from. The locations were given to the natives by the Republican Government. Probably they will not be content to leave their locations but, no doubt, if they were told to move they would do so.

GEORGE KNOOP: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer and live at Driehanged in the Pietersburg district. I wish to give evidence on the line between Schaffhausen and Matietsie's location.

The farmers living on the southern boundary of Area 2 object to the southern line because there are mostly white people living there. These white people are mostly outside the area but there are a few white farmers just within the area on the southern line.

about ten or twelve of them. They want this line to run as recommended by Commandant Erasmus. The farms just within the area are personally and beneficially occupied. The class of farming is stock and dry land agriculture. Some of the farmers have been there twenty years, and some for the same number of months. The majority have been there for some time. About five of the farmers have native squatters on their ground. Some of the natives pay rent, others are labour tenants. There is a fairly large number of natives living in the area which we want excluded. There would be possibly 7 or 8 thousand. The market value of these farms would be 20s. a morgen. I do not think 7s. 6d. would be a more reasonable valuation. I cannot say for certain when last a normal crop was reaped there. Some parts are well watered for instance along the Mahalokwin. There are no irrigation possibilities. But I think the land is worth £1 a morgen. Our people recommend that Matietsie should be shifted over the line. I think there is plenty of room now and for the next ten years to come.

I think the native tribes which are distinct from the natives living in the area would be satisfied to move into the area. The area in the early days used to be Matala's country. Most of the area is occupied by Malaboch's people that is at the back of the Machabin mountains.

J. WEDEPOHL.] I am a missionary, and Superintendent of the Berlin Mission. I wish to read a statement:—

Representations.

As regards the proposed three native areas in the Pietersburg district I am of opinion that provision should be made for a fourth native area for the natives of Ramorgopa, Mashaka (Matote) Lergale and Mamabolo locations and for the natives residing on farms joining and surrounding these locations.

This fourth native area should exist of the four mentioned locations and farms situated between the locations and farms south of the Matock location and east of the Sand River ending with the farm Roodewal (Berlin Mission) and also some farms north of Ramorgopa location should fall to this native area.

The reasons for my proposal are the following:—

1. Although the mentioned four locations are scheduled as native areas, they are situated in a now proposed non-native area and as I understand it is declared desirable that all these natives of these locations should move in to the three proposed native areas. However, they do not feel inclined at all to do so to leave the country, where they have been born which has been in possession and occupied by them years and years and where their respective chiefs have ruled them.

2. The three proposed native areas are occupied by other tribes, they consider them as being their own country. It wil cause trouble frictions and great difficulties, if chiefs with their tribes from other parts should endeavour to enter these areas and to take possession of large portions. These three native areas would also very soon become overcrowded.

3. My chief station is on the farm Roodewal, but I have also an important missionary and educational work on six outstations in Matoks and Ramokgopas location. Another chief station of the Berlin, named Kratyenstein, exists on the farm Doornhoek near Woodbush Village. The missionary in charge there is doing missionary and education work at Legales and Mainabolos Locations. If the christian natives of these four locations would have to leave with their tribes, it would mean a heavy loss to the native church as well as to the christian natives privately. I value the buildings on those stations in the two locations Ramokgopa and Motak, being under my supervision, at least £2,000. Such general removal would also mean a sad destruction of a well organised missionary and educational work, which has been developed and many great difficulties and troubles during a period of over 40 years. Including the two chief stations on Roodewal and Doornhoek we have inside and near the four locations 11 native congregations and 11 native schools with 11 native Evangelists and 16 native teachers. The native children attending these 11 schools number, according to registers of fourth quarter, 1913, 691. Nine of these schools are Government-aided schools, under inspection of a Government school inspector, getting important grants from the Education Department.

4. Our missionary and educational work is to the benefit of the natives, and we do it with the view of seeing a growing self-supporting and self-governing native church. This aim can only be obtained if the Christian natives can have their church and school buildings on land which is owned by them, and if a fair percentage of Christian natives reside on their own private ground. There is a good demand among natives to buy land. On that account we would like to sell our mission farms later on to natives, when time and circumstances make such transactions advisable and necessary. We would, therefore, like to have our mission farms Roodewal and Doornhoek and Leshoane included in a native area, to save these farms for natives for ever.

(Sgd.) J. WEDEPOHL
Superintendent, Berlin Mission.

Roodewal, P.O. Rita, via Pietersburg,
27th November, 1917.

The farms belonging to the Mission referred to in the aforegoing statement are Doornhoek 62, Roodewal 151 and Cyferdraai. The locations referred to are Legalie's, Mamabula's and Malopo's. I recommend that these three locations be cut off as a further native area. I would connect them up by making the Sand River the western boundary, taking the river from a point on Roodewal to where it adjoins Area 4 on the western side. If it be impossible to connect all three, I would suggest that two, at any rate, Legalie's and Mamabulo's, be connected. The farm Doornfontein between Legalie's and Mamabulo's, belongs to Marais and Brett. I can't say exactly how many natives belong to my church.

In the area I recommend there is only one white man, a Mr. Ritchard. Otherwise the area described by the red line on the map is unoccupied by white people. The farms Waterval, Richterdraai, and Kaalfontein, belong to companies. I do not know who the owners are of Rietgat and Bodenstein. The natives pay rent in that area to the owners of the farms. The area is malarious. The rainfall is the same as at Pietersburg—22 to 24 inches, but during the last few years much less than in Pietersburg. The natives go in for agriculture mostly in that area—mealies and kaffir corn. They last had a normal crop five years ago. The failure since has been due to drought.

The natives seem to be developing more agriculturally than pastorally. The locations are not large enough for cattle. The herds are increasing in number, but they are very poor—due to lack of grazing ground. In bad seasons some of the natives manage to get grazing on neighbouring farms.

I think that if the area I propose were included it would be sufficient for the needs of the natives now and for the next ten years to come. The altitude there is slightly higher than in Pietersburg—I should say about 4,500 feet.

I do not know the country to the north of the Spelonken Ward.

I think that some further provision should be made for the natives who may be regarded as high-veld or semi-high-veld natives.

Some of the natives in the area I have referred to go out to work among the farmers. Many of them go to the mines. The farmers round about draw their labour on the ninety days' system from the natives residing on their farms.

RICHARD VICTOR SELOPI-THEMA: Examined by Chairman.

I am a clerk. I have been asked by Mamabulo and other chiefs round here to give evidence on their behalf. (Chairman explains that Mamabulo and other chiefs had already made representations).

I wish to give evidence as to the locations of these chiefs which were excluded by the Beaumont Commission. I understand you are here only to take evidence on the adequacy of areas. I take it that the natives in the locations will remain there at the pleasure of the Government until they can find room for them in the low country. There is, so far as I can see, no other place where they can be provided for.

These locations were granted to the natives by the late Republican Government under the Convention of Pretoria. The natives have been living there for a long time. The locations are of no use to Europeans. I do not see why they should not be made a native area.

I propose that a further area be added to the present one including these locations, and that the locations should be retained by the natives. I think each of the locations should be a native area under the hill, together with any farms which the natives may have bought. I am speaking now on behalf of the chiefs. My evidence does not mean that I approve of the principle of the Bill.

The other point I want to make, is that in each district where there is a native area the remaining portion of the district should be declared a neutral area. I should place no restrictions on the purchase or leasing of land in such neutral areas.

I think that you are going to follow the same line as the Beaumont Commission, because you are bound and restricted as they were by the same objections and representations. The evidence of natives will carry no weight in Parliament. Parliament is a Parliament of white people. Each member represents a white constituency, and will have to carry out the wishes of that constituency.

That is all I wanted to say.

29th November.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

HENDRIK HOFMEYR: Examined by Chairman.

I am a missionary of the Dutch Reformed Church, and live in Molepo's Location. I have lived there 14 years.

I want to plead the cause of the people of Molepo's. I do not think it would be fair to remove them. I have heard, too, that the place to which they would have to go is very unhealthy. I understand that it is in the low veld. (The *Chairman* explains that even when the native areas are fixed by Parliament, and the locations of Mamabulo, Legali and Molepo fall within the non-native area, they are still scheduled areas, and remain such until the Government by Resolution of both Houses of Parliament decides otherwise, and they will be administered under the same law as the native area). I have heard that too, but that does not assist. In any case, whatever is provided for by this committee can be abolished by Act of Parliament. The difficulty remains. I would propose that Molepo's location be increased and made an area in itself. I suggest that it be increased by the addition of the farms recommended by native witnesses, and indicated by the blue lines on the map (*i.e.*, joining up with Mamabulo's location along the boundaries of the farms Laatstehoop 363, Middelkop 393, Bezuidenhoutslust 392, Driefontein 635, Turfloop 391, Syferfontein 103, and then back to Molepo's along the boundaries of Vredelust 1889, Miriba 1888, Hardetijd 1887, Smitsdrift 582, Vergenoeg 581). Whelan lives on Laatstehoop, Mundt lives on Kleinfontein, Dietlefs lives in the neighbourhood. There are not many kaffirs in this additional area. They pay rent to the owners of the farms. Their chief is Molepo, but some of them are under Mamabulo.

I should prefer not to speak of the other locations.

It is a question where Molepo's people come from. Some say from the Magaliesberg, and that they trekked from there to the other side of the Limpopo, near Messina. Very many years ago—more than a hundred years—they trekked to where they are now.

The altitude of Molepo's is about 3,600 feet, at any rate say about 600 feet lower than Pietersburg. Messina may be about 2,000. I do not know how long they were near Messina. There is malaria at Molepo's—a good deal. It is very warm in summer. In winter it is cold. I don't know Magaboya's location. I don't know Levdsdorp. Molepo's tribe is the Bakhatla, the same tribe as the Bakhatla who live in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

JAMES TWEMLOW HAWLEY: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and live at Ramatala's Kloof. I am here on behalf of the Low Country Farmers' Association, which appointed me to give evidence before this Committee, together with Mr. Dicke. I could not appear with Mr. Dicke at Duivelskloof. I wish to give evidence on the points mentioned in the memorandum which I put in:—

1. "Native Affairs Administration Act" be put back three years in the whole Union, and after that period discussion on the Act be re-opened.
2. Protest against present size of proposed native areas, and to aim at decrease.
3. To keep Rooiwater and Harmony Rock out of native area.
4. Provision to be made for native labour, and ask for distinct statement as to whether a native leaving one farm can re-engage on another as a farm labour tenant, or whether he must go to the location or reserve, can he leave location or reserve, and engage as a farm labour tenant.
5. Abolish the 10s. Native Labour Tenant Tax.

(Sgd.) JAMES T. HAWLEY,
Secretary.

First, we want the Bill to be held back for three years. (*Chairman* explains that that is not a matter which is pertinent to the Committee's Terms of Reference). We understand that, but we wish our representation to be put on record. We would add a rider that a Commission be appointed to enquire into the economic aspect of the whole law as affecting the question of native farm labour.

Secondly, we protest against the present size of native areas. And we want the Harmony Block and Rooiwater to be kept out of the native area. Both places are considered to be suitable for white settlement. (*Chairman* explains area recommended by Beaumont Commission). From our point of view the area north-east of Modjadje's location towards the Malapala, marked with a square on the map (*i.e.*, roughly the area between the Molototsie River and the Portuguese border) is not suitable for native occupation or farming.

The Basuto is an agriculturist, but does not carry on agricultural pursuits on a large scale. The average family cultivates 6 or 7 acres. It depends upon the number of ploughing implements and cattle they have got. Some of my natives are handling 10 to 15 acres with ploughs.

An area which I consider more suitable would be to take a line running from Thabina towards Secororo's location across the Harmony Block. You cannot put a native to live on a dry place. The native cannot make the same economic use of the Shingwedzi as the white man can.

The Shangaans are a pastoral people as opposed to the Basuto. I think the country I have referred to marked with a square should be eliminated from the native area. It could be used by whites for cattle ranching. If money were spent on irrigation it could be made of use.

If country is suitable for irrigation it should be excluded from the native area, because natives cannot make the same economic use of it. I cannot speak of the exceptional native who makes as much as £400 and £500 a year. With regard to that class of native I do not say that he would not be able to make the same economic use of the soil as a white man. Generally speaking, of course, the white man makes better use of the soil.

By Commandant Opperman.] What is your view regarding the proposition that Legalie's, Mamabulo's and Molepo's locations should remain in the white area?—I would not recommend their removal, and yet I don't see how they can remain.

I want the Harmony Block to fall outside the area. Of the two areas the Harmony Block is better for natives.

By the Chairman.] Mr. Dicke stated that his experience was that where natives congregated under the tribal system it was difficult to get them to work, and so we should avoid giving them large areas on which they could squat under the communal system. If limited areas were given he thought that the natives by pressure of economic cause would be obliged to make better use of the land and to work. Do you agree with that?—Yes, I agree. I think that suitable land should be provided, and that unless the ground is suitable it would be impossible to consummate that ideal. Practically the whole of the Harmony Block is occupied by natives—I understand about 14,000 of them.

I think it would be reasonable to give the natives a high veld area in the Groot Spelonken as recommended by district officers, and to exclude from their area the portions of Area 5 which are considered unsuitable for natives—having regard to the fact that the Groot Spelonken area has always been occupied by natives, and that the ground is suitable for native occupation.

I know the Ward Klein Letaba, and I consider it unsuitable for natives, also portions of Ward Low Country, also everything north and north-east of the railway line. It is excellent cattle country, and is fairly well watered in parts. It has suitable grass, but I doubt whether the native could subsist there.

Under my suggestion about 60 per cent., I daresay, would be excluded from Area 5. I think that 60 per cent. should be included in the European area.

I think that to ensure a better supply of labour to the farms and the mines individual tenure by natives should be encouraged, and that the Government should avoid giving large areas in which the natives could live communally. I absolutely endorse what Mr. Dicke has said on this point.

We have a certain amount of difficulty in getting efficient labour. It is absolutely impossible to leave the native without continual supervision.

I cannot possibly compare the native's efficiency with that of the white man. By instruction he would certainly become more efficient. If there were greater continuity in native labour—say twelve months in the year—you could produce efficient native labour, but when a native works for six months only and then goes away he has forgotten everything when he returns.

For my own personal work I should prefer to secure the 90 days together, but we are unable to secure any uniformity of system in dealing with native labour. The matter may perhaps be largely solved by getting farmers to agree to arrive at a uniform system. Agreement among the farmers is essential. The best training for a native from our point of view is from youth up. You breed into him then proper farm methods.

The altitude near the Ellerton is about 1,800 to 2,300 feet. Ward Klein Letaba is malarious, but it varies from season to season. It does not necessarily depend on the rains. Fever is very bad even when it is very dry.

The rainfall in Ward Klein Letaba is, I should say, about 14 to 20 inches. Taking an average westwards to eastwards it would be much less than that. Near Modjadge's the rainfall would be from 25 to 40 inches. The mountains account for the difference.

The health conditions are practically the same in the Harmony Block, probably a little more unhealthy there than in other parts, especially towards Thabina and towards the Olifants. A few white storekeepers live there.

I know that the Harmony Block is almost solely occupied by rent-paying natives who have lived there a considerable number of years. No attempt so far as I am aware, has ever been made to open it up to white settlement, though I have heard of companies having been formed for the purpose. I know that the company owners have refused to sell even at their own price to white people. The companies apparently do not want white settlement, because they are making more money out of their native rents.

I wish now on behalf of my Association to refer to the removal of natives from one farm to another. Under present conditions on my farm a native who is tired of living there applies for a pass to go. Assuming that this Bill becomes law (*Chairman* explains that under the Bill a native squatter or labour tenant cannot remove from one farm to another. If he moves he must either work as a servant or go into the native area). So, if he wishes to leave the native area and become a labour tenant he cannot do so. We are opposed to that. We consider that natives should be allowed to come out of the native area and work among the farmers as labour tenants. On behalf of my Association I wish to have it recorded that provision be made for natives to move from anywhere to become farm tenants in the white area.

We also want the 10s. licence to be abolished. The native in the location pays £2 native tax. The native on Crown Land pays £2 and £1 rent. The native on a farm, if the Bill becomes law, would pay £2 tax, £2 rent, and £3 licence—£7 altogether. The labour tenant pays to Government £1, but works 90 days a year equal to £4 10s., his women work 2 days a week at 1d. a day, equal to £2 5s., the piccanin works at least 3 months in the year, equal to £1 10s. So that the native in the location and the native on Crown Land has a pull over the native on the farm. We propose that the 10s. tax should be removed, so that the position may be equalised more.

Pietersburg, 29th November, 1917.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.
and about 200 Natives.

After the Chairman had addressed the gathering and explained the terms of reference the following chiefs and Indunas tendered evidence.

MALABOCH, accompanied by 5 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am the Chief Malaboch, and I live with my tribe—the Litseni—on the farm Buffelshoek, on the Blaauwberg Mountains, in this district.

I was granted a location in the Zoutpansberg district, but I have never lived there.

I want to live where I am at present. My people are spread over the surrounding country as far south as Blackhill and Normandy, and northwards as far as the Limpopo, eastwards as far as Kibi's, and westwards as far as 15 miles west of Magaliesberg. I want to remain here. I do not want the location in the Zoutpansberg to live in, but I should like it to be added to my location. If I am moved from where I am now I should not like to go to that location, but if I may remain where I am now I should like the location to be added to my ground. I am perfectly satisfied with the ground where I live now.

Where I am living there are a lot of people.

The tribe is very big, and I should like the Government to provide more ground for me and my people. I want my ground to be extended beyond the Magalakwin, where there is grazing, because on this side the cattle are dying. That is into the Waterberg district, near the Groot Rivier. I have described the area I want to my Sub-Native Commissioner, Mr. Kerr. He knows what I mean. He has prepared a map showing the area. I propose as far as Bulkop, in the Waterberg district, and north as far as Lodi and the big River Limpopo.

JOHANNES DRALA, Induna: Examined by Chairman.

I have heard what my chief has said. I agree. I should like our people to have the country from Borchen to the Mahalokwin, which was formerly Malaboch's, right up to where Kibi used to be, that is on the Zoutpansberg western boundary, and following the north and north-west up to the Limpopo.

Our people have lived in that area from time immemorial.

The other Indunas on being asked whether they agree stand up and answer in the affirmative.

MATLALA and 6 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am the Chief Matlala, and I live in my location with my people the Bakoni. We have lived in that area from time immemorial. We are not satisfied with that area, because there are some farms in between where my people are. There are many farms round there. I want those farms added to my location. Our Sub-Native Commissioner knows the farms in question, and will be able to describe them to you.

The Indunas on being asked whether they agree, answer in the affirmative.

MACHICHAAN and 3 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am the Chief Maraba Machichaan, and I live in my own location in this district with my people. We are Ndebele.

I am very pleased with my location, but there is one thing that disappointed me, and that is that the location was divided and Doornfontein taken out. I have been there for 58 years. I am satisfied with the location itself. The climate there is cold. If we go to a hotter climate the Government will kill all our people. The location is not large enough. Most of my people are outside—on Doornfontein and Rietfontein.

The area we want added to our location is in the Waterberg. Our Commissioner knows that area, and we wish him to describe it to you. (Mr. Nicholson, the Sub-Native Commissioner, states: You told me Vaalkop, Doornspruit, Uitvlugt and Doornfontein: You said nothing about the Waterberg). I would be very grateful to the Government if these farms were given to us.

Indunas agree.

JONATHAN MARABA and 4 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Ndebele tribe, and I live on Weltevreden, which is a portion of the Pietersburg town lands. I pay rent to the Municipality. I don't know about any application to the Supreme Court asking for my ejectment. I have not been paying rent to the Municipality. They have not been round to collect. I want no other place. I want to stay where I was born—Marabastad, on Zand River 339, where my father died, and my people have lived for many years. That is where my great grandfather died. All my people are not living on Weltevreden. Some of them are on Marabastad. I have been on Weltevreden for 13 years. I was shifted there by Captain Dale. I was shifted from Kalkfontein. I do not know why.

Indunas agree.

JACK ELAND and 6 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief, and live on Rietfontein 70. I belong to the Ndebele tribe. My heart is very sore, because the ground where I am staying is a farm. We are paying rent. We have no ground and we want ground. We have lived on that ground from time immemorial.

Our people came originally from near the Drakensberg Mountains.

We should be very glad if Rietfontein is set aside for occupation of our people.

Indunas agree.

STEPHANUS TLOLANE and 3 followers: Examined by Chairman.

I am an Induna of Zebediela's tribe. My Chief is Shinkwana, who lives in Zebediela's location in the Waterberg district. I live on Frischgewaagd in this district.

There is no other place but Frischgewaagd where I should like to live with my people. I have been there for a number of years.

Followers agree.

PADULI MPAHLELE, MAJA, CHOENI, and followers: Examined by Chairman.

PADULI: I am a chief of the tribe of the Bakgaka, and live in Choeni's location. We three have come here to make representations to the Committee in connection with land. We ask that this land be put back for a time. Because this is a bad time. Because we are looking for the help with which the Government requires us to help them—with the young men. Under present conditions those who have gone away will come back and find their parents gone.

Chairman.] Is the Committee to understand that you do not wish to represent to the Committee what you and your people want so far as land is concerned?

PADULI: We humbly ask that this land may be put back for a time.

Chairman.] I explained to you that five years ago an Act was passed by which certain rights of buying and hiring land were taken away from the native. That was a temporary measure affecting these rights until the Beaumont Commission could report to Parliament, and until Parliament should bring in a law restoring those rights to you. Under this Bill it is proposed to restore to you with certain limitations the rights that were taken away by Act 27 of 1913. That is to say, that within certain definite limits, you are to have the same rights as you had before with regard to the purchase and hire of land. And what do we find here to-day? We find sensible men like you coming here and saying that you don't want these rights restored to you. You don't want the right to buy and hire land under certain conditions within certain areas. Because some of your people are still away you say this is not the time. You say that when your people come back they will find their wives and families gone. Is it not a fact that there is more danger of their finding their wives and families gone if this Bill does not become law than if it becomes law and your rights are definite under that law. What will your people say to you if the Government accepts our recommendations and our recommendations do not please your people. They will say "Chief, you broke faith with us, you have betrayed us, you have not represented our case to the Government, and, therefore, we have not got what we were entitled to."

The Committee is sorry that you have not taken the opportunity which General Botha wished to give you to come forward and tel us exactly what your people want.

Do Choeni and Maja wish to say the same as Mpahlele?

MAJA: What you have said frightens us. Because you ask Mpahlele to say what you think is right. What I say is that the law should be left over for a time. I agree with Mpahlele. If this Bill becomes law and our men come back it will be very hard for them. We ask you to put this matter off until the war is ended.

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PASOANE and 7 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am a Chief of the Bapedi. My Paramount Chief is Secocoeni. I live on the farm Rooiboschbult, in the Pietersburg district. I and my people occupy five farms in the extreme south-western portion of the district. I ask to be allowed to stay for always where I am staying now. I have lived there for a long time. My father was born in Secocoeni-land. We came to this area after my birth. I wish to remain there.

Indunas agree.

MATAPO and 4 Indunas: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief of the tribe of the Phuti. I live on the farm Last Hope No. 363, in this district. We should like to stay where we are at present, on the farms where we now live. Our Native Commissioner knows these farms and can describe them to you.

Indunas agree.

LEGALIE and INDUNAS: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief, and live on the farms Kalkfontein, Doornfontein and Cyferkuil with my people. In Legalie's location I have a nephew who is in charge of the natives there. I want to hand in a letter. We want to live where we have lived for many hundreds of years, and we wish that area to be declared a neutral area, in which both black and white may be allowed to buy. That is our place there. We want to die there.

Indunas agree.

Klein Likgale, Pietersburg,
1st November, 1917.

The Sub-Native Commissioner,
Sub Commissioner's Office,
Pietersburg.

Sir,

A few days passed we had come over to see you about the coming Native Administration Bill Committee. May it please our honourable Commissioner to receive our claims with regard to probable future allocation of lands. We humbly state that:—

1. We have resided here over three hundred years.
2. A good succession of our chiefs have been buried here.
3. We have never raised sword against either the late Republic or the English and Union Governments, though our land without the least cause has been cut up into farms, and for years have been made and necessitated to pay enormous rental sums of money.
4. And we pray that the usual English Justice may thus avail itself again. The English sence of justice which is being witnessed to-day by all the living world in defending the innocents and weaker nations.
5. We pray that we be maintained where we buried our chiefs, and that more land be added as there is sufficient land for such extention, which would keep our people a period of ten years.
6. We humbly suggest that some neutral areas should be set apart for the benefit of purchasing by both races.
7. We further state that to remove us from here would be totally detrimental to our lives, and especially in this country, which is well known that in some parts of it no human being can live. In the face of these facts we pray and request our honourable Commissioner to lay before the said coming Committee our claims, petitions and suggestions.
8. And we finally humbly state that we have been climatised where we are. Where we have been born and bred up. We rely upon the living and usual and noteworthy rule of the Empire. We have confidence on the Union Government's sole good and just motives. We as loyal subjects of the Government hope to share our worthy portion, and that we may esteem the benefit of a Responsible Government.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Sgd.) 1. Chief KUKUNA LIKGALE.
2. RANTI LIKGALE.
3. JOEL LIKGALE.
4. NOHIRELETSA MASEKUAMENG.
5. SERAGA MAMAREGANE.
6. LEKOTA LEKOTA.
7. MOCHIDI MAILULA.
8. CAMADIEL MAPHOTO.
9. PTROSE MAPHOTO.
10. PILETJI MAILULA.

On behalf of Likgale's people.

Klein Likgale, P.B. Pietersburg,
1st November, 1917.

The Sub-Native Commissioner,
Sub-Native Office,
Pietersburg.

Sir,

We have the respect to request your assistance and support. May our honourable Commissioner bear in mind that this Bill is historical, and will thereby make an epoch in the history of South Africa. It is a most vital to both races which are duty bound to live side by side in South Africa as long as the world exists. Your name shall remain in historical records as one who proved himself honest to secure the rights of his weaker subjects in his department.

Honourable Commissioner this is the right time, and doubt if there shall ever be another, for your honour to leave your stamp on the native mind and hearts. We believe your Commissioner shall avail himself of the opportunity ever produced by human brains.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Sgd.) 1. Chief KUKUNA LIKGALE.
2. RANTI LIKGALE.
3. JOEL LIKGALE.
4. NOHIRELETSA MASEKUAMENG.
5. SERAGA MAMAREGANE.
6. LEKOTA LEKOTA.
7. MOCHIDI MAILULA.
8. CAMADIEL MAPHOTO.
9. PTROSE MAPHOTO.
10. PILETJI MAILULA.

On behalf of Likgale's people.

To the Chairman and Members of the Honourable Parliamentary Committee for the Native Administration Bill, Pietersburg.

Sirs,

We humbly beg to submit the following statements on behalf of Likgale's people.

(1) That we have already given inour claims in the Bill through our Sub-Native Commissioner.

(2) That although we have so done yet our supreme prayer to the Union Parliament is that which we expressed to the Secretary for Native Affairs while he last visited us, that we sympathise with our Most Gravious Sovereign in the world-wide struggle for liberty for all his subjects, and that while we are yet engaged in such a struggle such a Bill which cannot be calculated to inspire good feelings on his native subjects should in the meantime be set aside until a complete victory is won by the King.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

(Sgd.) 1. Chief KUKUNA LIKGALE
2. RANTI LIKGALE.
3. JOEL LIKGALE.
4. NOHIRELETSA MASEKUAMENG.
5. SERAGA MAMAREGANE.
6. LEKOTA LEKOTA.
7. MOCHILI MAILULA.
8. CAMADIEL MAPHOTO.
9. PETROS MAPHOTO.
10. PILETJI MAILULA.

On behalf of Likgale's people.

MEJAPILO, PAMBANA, MKOANA, S. MOTHIBA, KLEIN MOTHIBA and followers: Examined by Chairman.

S. MOTHIBA: I am a chieftainess in charge of Mothiba's tribe. I live on Melkboomfontein.

KLEIN MOTHIBA: I am a chief in charge of my people at Mothiba's Kraal.

MEJAPILO: I am a chief, and live on Mothiba's Kraal and Matjes Kraal.

PAMBANA: I am a chief of the Zulu, and live on Rooiwater.

NKOANA: I am a chief of the Ndebele living on Papkuil.

S. MOTHIBA: The ground where we are living is ours, and we wish to live there. My father and my great grandfather died there. My Native Commissioner knows that ground, and can describe it more fully to you.

Her followers agree.

KLEIN MOTHIBA: I have nothing to say. I wish to stay where I am with my people.

Followers agree.

MEJAPILO: I am satisfied where I am with my people. I do not wish to go away.

Followers agree.

PAMBANA: I have nothing to say.

NKOANA: We are satisfied.

JAMES B. SKIRVING, COLIN BRIGHT KERR, JOSEPH HAMILTON NICHOLSON, CHARLES HERBERT NICHOLSON: Examined by Chairman.

JAMES B. SKIRVING: I am magistrate and Native Commissioner for the district of Pietersburg. Before that I was magistrate and Native Commissioner for the district of Waterberg for five years. I am well acquainted with the district of Waterberg, and more or less acquainted with the district of Pietersburg. I cannot claim any great knowledge of the Pietersburg district. My district officers will give evidence.

COLIN BRIGHT KERR: I am detached Native Commissioner's clerk at Blaauwberg, and have held that position for three years.

JOSEPH HAMILTON NICHOLSON: I am Acting Sub-Native Commissioner at Pietersburg, and have held that position for 13 months. Before that I was chief clerk to the Native Commissioner here. I have been in this district 4½ years.

CHARLES HERBERT NICHOLSON: I am Acting Sub-Native Commissioner at Groot Spelonken, and have held that position for 13 months. Before that I was in the office of the Sub-Native Commissioner at Pretoria and Johannesburg.

Mr. Skirving.] I know the Beaumont Areas in my district—Nos. 3, 4 and 6, and portions of 2, 5 and 7. I can only speak as to their adequacy or suitability from information received from my district officers.

Mr. Kerr.] I know Area 2; only the northern portions falls within my jurisdiction. This northern portion is occupied by roughly 20,000 natives, men, women and children. Only one farm within that area is owned by natives, viz., Bognafman No. 1070, which is owned by Chief Malaboch for his tribe. Malaboch lives on Buffelshoek adjoining. Buffelshoek is fully occupied. The natives lands extend beyond the farm, and they have to get water on two other farms. Except for Buffelshoek and Bognafman the natives occupy farms owned by Europeans.

The Government ground in the area is too deep along the Magalakwin. There are five other farms belonging to Government unalienated. Of the unalienated Crown Lands 11 are occupied by native squatters—about 300 souls. Their cattle would probably graze on the adjoining Government farms. There are 96 privately owned farms occupied solely by natives—all squatters, and comprising about 14,800 souls. There are 8 privately owned alienated Crown farms occupied by Europeans. Of the five privately owned one is farmed by the owner, one is a residential site for Government officials and the agents of the owners. Eight Crown farms are occupied by white farmers. The total population within the area is 20,000 souls. The natives occupy the farms under tribal conditions. They are not all under one chief. I cannot give the number of Malaboch's followers within the area. None of the farms are individually occupied by natives.

The tracts of land to the north, to the east, to the west, and the south-east are occupied by natives—Malaboch's people to the west, north, and east, and Maloto's to the south-east.

Area 2 is suitable for the natives, but I do not consider that it is adequate now and for the next ten years to come. The population is practically stationary for several reasons. The main reason is that the young man goes away to work and does not come back owing to the policy of the land owners as to the incidence of rent. They assess rent on the same lines that the Government assesses tax, *i.e.*, not on beneficial occupation. A young man going to work at 17 and staying away four years comes back as a tax payer, and is faced with a bill of £8 as rent for land which he has never seen. So they don't come back at all. Many of them live on the reef, many in Kimberley, some in Natal and Volksrust, and some on farms. I do not think the companies realise how far the thing has gone. I have discussed it with them. They seem to think it is alright. Their main idea is to recover the money. The increase in population is nothing. The natives are syphilitic and malarial, and any increase is nullified by the young men staying away. Apart from this I could not say what the increase would be. I think the census figures would probably represent the increase.

The country is almost entirely flat, except for two ranges—the Blaauwberg and the Machabin.

The nature of the soil to the north of the Blaauwberg is sandy and poor. The grass is of a poor type except near the mountains. It is not Mapani veld so far as I know. The grass is very poor food for cattle. Not 5 per cent. of the area (*i.e.*, the Beaumont Area) to the north of the mountains is arable and productive that is having regard to the rainfall. The rainfall is a great deal less than on the Blaauwberg range—say about 10 inches. There is no cultivation in the northern area. The Magalokwin cannot be used for irrigation. The natives are pastoral. There are very few there—only isolated kraals and cattle posts. There are practically no natives up there. That area is suitable if you can provide water by means of boreholes. If you put down 25 to 50 boreholes you could carry a further population; that is a pastoral population. The country would then be quite suited to the requirements of the natives north of the mountain.

These conditions apply broadly to the area south of the mountains. The soil is a little better, and the rainfall a little better on the flats, averaging 15 inches. But the peculiarity of the rainfall in that area is that you get it concentrated in one month. It is not distributed. If it were you might have more consistent crops.

Taking the Blaauwberg range itself less than 10 per cent. is arable and productive. The natives cultivate on the mountain slopes. The soil is more fertile on the mountain than on the flats. The crops are almost entirely kaffir corn. Mealies are grown to a very small extent. Kaffir corn resists drought better than mealies. The Blaauwberg Range is entirely occupied by Malaboch's people. He himself lives on the top of the mountain on the farm Buffelshoek. I have traced his people back for 15 generations. Their kraal used to be on Buffelshoek. Buffelshoek is owned by a company. I know that Malaboch was granted a location by the Hogge Commission. He has never lived there. I don't know why. A few of Mpefu's people are there. They are of a totally different tribe. Some attempt has been made to induce Malaboch to live in that location. He has been talked to about it, but he has always said that he could not see his way to go there. The Brak River runs through the location. It is a stormwater river. Beyond the Brak there is no other water. That is no doubt one of the reasons why Malaboch was not content to leave the place where his people have lived for many generations. Another reason would be that on the mountain the climate is high veld, and the location is on the flats. It is malarious on the flats. There is no fever on the mountains. Another reason would be sentiment.

Malaboch's people came originally from Khama's country, and are a similar tribe to Khama's. They came because in a drought in this country one of Modjadjes' daughters left and went into the veld with a few followers, and came to where the Bakalanga were. She was a young woman, and both the sons of the chief wished to marry her. The old chief was in favour of the younger son, who married her. But when the elder son raised a party and would have rebelled against his father with the object of getting this daughter of Modjadje, the younger son, with his part of the tribe, broke away before there was any fighting, and the old chief told the elder son that if the runaways could get over the Limpopo they were not to be followed any further. Hence their name. They did get across, and refused to come back. And that is the origin of their tribal name, Bakalanga, which means: "the people who won't come back." At that time they had no knowledge of ploughing. I have not noticed any improvement in their methods of agriculture during the last three years. There is no tendency towards agricultural pursuits in preference to pastoral. They have been introducing Sudan kaffir corn. They are fairly rich in cattle. There is no East Coast Fever. We dip regularly.

I think the Beaumont Area should be extended both east and west. I have a plan, which I put in, showing my recommendations. My object is to provide sufficient areas for the natives, and the influx that is bound to come of natives from the north, that is of Malaboch's people who are at present unprovided for. The extent of the area I recommend is 120 square miles. I am simply reaffirming the recommendations of Mr. Manning, but I am adding to his recommendations on the west into the Waterberg district.

In the additional area to the east recommended by me there are only nine farms inhabited by natives, and only to a small extent. There may be 300 souls. The farms to a very large extent belong to land companies. A few belong to the Government. Five of the farms are personally and beneficially occupied by Europeans. They go in for mixed farming. There are not many improvements. The occupiers have only recently gone there. A few huts at most have been erected. There is no water, except on the farm Sandown, from a spring, running through Kibi's. Innes and Ameland also have water, also Devon and Indermark. There are waterholes in the Brak River. The value of land in the additional area is broadly about 5s. 6d. a morgen. Within the Beaumont Area it is about 4s. The best farm in the whole area is Indermark. That was sold by a company on terms for 10s. a morgen. There is water there and irrigable land. There are only two irrigable farms. The other is Devon, which Government is selling at 4s. a morgen.

The area in the west in the Waterberg district which I propose should be added is occupied solely by natives belonging to Malaboch. They have been in occupation as long as the tribe has been here. There is little water to the west. I value the land the same as the general run of the Blaauwberg Area. There are 25 Government farms, and 36 are

owned by companies. The extent of the additional western area is very roughly 120,000 morgen. The Magalokwin cannot be used for irrigation. The soil is red, sandy; 5 per cent. is arable and productive. The rainfall is about 10 or 12 inches. 75 native families live there with 1,198 head of cattle, 1,478 sheep, and 47 donkeys. No white people live there. It is malarious. The whole of my area is malarious with the exception of the mountains.

Chairman.] It has been suggested that Malukie's people could be placed in an area to the north of the line running from Schaffhausen to Borchem, together with the natives living south of that line, but within the Beaumont Area. Do you consider that the area would be sufficient to accommodate Malukie's people together with those to the south?

Mr. Kerr.] No, not even if you could guarantee the rainfall.

There is no tribal relationship between Malukie and Malaboch. I can't say what is the total population of Malukie's.

Mr. J. H. Nicholson.] 9,300 within the location, 20,000 including those outside.

Mr. Kerr.] You could not place Malukie's people within the area, firstly, because the land is inadequate, and, secondly, because of the troubles that would arise between the tribes.

Mr. Skirving (in reply to *Chairman*): There *has* been a tendency for land south of the Schalfhausen—Borchem to be taken up by settlers.

Mr. Kerr.] The rainfall there is about 15 to 16 inches. Not one farm north of a line taken two farms deep to the north of the Beaumont line is personally and beneficially occupied by whites. The natives there are peripatetic. Two farms have been in occupation by whites for a number of years—Lucy's Own and Rosenkrantz. Beyond these two there are practically none occupied. I hand in my report.

Mr. Skirving.] I don't wish to add anything to what Mr. Kerr has said. I endorse his recommendations.

Mr. Kerr, in reply to *Commandant Opperman*: I should be very much surprised to hear of a farm to the south of the Beaumont Area being sold for 30s. a morgen. The farm in question falls outside my sub-district.

Mr. Skirving, in reply to *Chairman*: A block of farms along the Zoutpansberg border have recently been gazetted at 5s. per morgen.

MR. J. H. NICHOLSON: Examined by Chairman.

Portion of Area 7, Area 3, and portion of Area 2 fall within my sub-district.

With regard to Area 2, my recommendation is that it should be joined on to Area 3 by the addition of the intervening farms. Everything between the blue lines on the map submitted represents my recommendations. According to that map you will see I have connected up the three locations, Matala's, Machichaan's, and Malietsie's.

The farms between Areas 2 and 3 and Machichaan's are all privately owned. I can't say at present exactly how many of them are personally and beneficially occupied by whites, but the greater portion of the ground is occupied by natives.

The yellow line in my map indicates the area recommended by district officers to the Beaumont Commission, but not accepted by the Commission, the blue line that recommended by myself and Mr. Kerr. The smaller farms within my additional area are occupied by Europeans. There are no permanent streams. There are a few fountains. The natives are paying rent on the farms unoccupied by Europeans. The average value of land there is about £1 per morgen. In some cases it would be more.

Mr. Skirving.] I should say 20s. to 22s. 6d. a morgen.

Mr. Nicholson.] The nearer to Pietersburg the more valuable the land becomes. I think it varies from 20s. to 25s. Berggezicht is a very good farm, worth about 26s.

I cannot at the moment give the native population within the additional area. It is thickly occupied, mostly by Malietsie's people, and some of Matala's and Machichaan's. Our idea is to link up Areas 2 and 3 and make one compact area. That would facilitate administration.

Jonathan Maraba, the chief on Weltevreden could be provided for there. It is quite possible, too, that arrangements could be made to accommodate Mothiba, S. Mothiba, and Legalie, who all broke off from Chief Mohlaba many years ago. The followers of these three chiefs would be about 8,000. It might be a little difficult to find room for them. Mamabulo and Molepo could not be accommodated there. There would be no room for them. If there were room inter-tribal difficulties might be surmounted. The climate does not approximate to their locations. The difference in altitude would not be very marked. Molepo's is between middle and low.

The rainfall in my additional area from Machichaan's northwards would be about 25 inches. Further down you get less.

Malietsie has a number of natives living outside his location. I cannot say how much arable ground there is in the location. There is some very good ground. They plough a good deal there.

Even with boreholes in the location it could not carry the whole of Malietsie's people and their cattle.

I cannot say how much of Matala's is arable and productive. It could accommodate more natives. I don't think Machichaan's could carry any more. In all these locations the natives are ploughing outside the locations, because the land is being worked out. Not so much in Matala's, but chiefly in Malietsie's.

I should like to refer to the proposition made by Commandant Erasmus. Assuming that there was sufficient ground in the restricted area suggested by him, I do not think you could mix Malietsie's people with Malaboch's. We cannot possibly move Malietsie into the Beaumont Area. They would not be content to go. If they were removed it would have to be by force. I do not think that is desirable.

With regard to Area 7, the blue line on my map is my recommendation. The yellow line is that of the district officers rejected by the Beaumont Commission. The red line represents the Beaumont Area.

The area between the red and blue lines runs along the Chuniespoort Mountain. I recommend this additional area in order to round off the area into a more compact block, and to include Chunies location. I have included Maasfontein 54, Frischgewaagd, Witkoppies and Muklenburg, because Jack Eland has said his tribe would be satisfied with that. Two of these farms are occupied. There are no farmers in the area between the blue and the red lines. The holdings are very small. The eastern portion is mostly mountain, hardly any use to anybody. Between 5 and 10 per cent. of the area between the red and blue lines is arable.

The conditions beyond the mountains in the direction of Mpahlele's location as to rainfall approximate to those in the northern part of Area 2. The rainfall is so uncertain that a good crop is the exception more than the rule.

Mr. Skirving.] Any crop at all is a rarity.

Mr. Nicholson.] The natives living between the blue and red lines are all Mpahlele's. The farms are mostly Government farms. The others are privately owned. Three or four farms are occupied by Europeans. They were taken up recently. Altogether 10 farms are personally and beneficially occupied by Europeans. They go in for cattle chiefly. There are lime works on Vaalboschlaagte. The country is not well watered.

The altitude on top of the mountains is about the same as Pietersburg—about 4,000 feet or more.

Mpahlele's location is a little lower than Potgietersrust, say about 3,000 feet. It is malarious. I do not think Mamabulo or Molepo could be accommodated there in my additional area. There is no tribal affinity between these chiefs and Mpahlele.

The total native population between the blue lines (Area 7), is about 10,000. The extent of the whole of that area is 134,500 morgen. In that area, broadly speaking, 50 morgen are required to sustain a native family of five.

Chairman.] What could be produced from a morgen of ground in a normal year?

Mr. Nicholson.] They have had nothing at all during the last three years. Mpahlele's people live chiefly on cattle. I cannot say how many bags of mealies would be produced to a morgen. In Area 3, 20 morgen are necessary to sustain a native family of five. If the natives were taught to use the soil properly the number might be reduced to 15 morgen.

Mr. Kerr.] In Area 2, 100 morgen would be necessary.

Mr. Nicholson.] When I say 15 to 20 morgen, I mean fairly good ground.

Mr. Skirving.] I am in favour of the linking up of Areas 2 and 3, though I am aware there is a great deal of hostility owing to there being a great deal of European settlement on the intervening farms. I cannot agree with Commandant Erasmus in his valuations. I am in favour, because if we have to remove Legalie's and other locations a lot of valuable land will be released for European occupation. That would be compensation for the ground which might be used for European settlement, and which I propose should be taken into the native area. The climate in the locations is practically the same as that in the additional area I recommend. The rainfall grows progressively less as you go north of the locations. Malietsie's people are already living outside his location.

I have come to the conclusion that it would be more satisfactory to administer the areas if they were as compact as possible instead of having little black islands all over the country adjoining large European settlements. Economically it is a question, to my mind, whether from the point of view of labour it would be satisfactory to have native areas too far from European farms.

I do not know Malietsie's location.

I know Area 6.

I think the Shingwedzi is worthless from the point of view of native occupation. I think it should be excluded from the native area. The State might put it to other uses.

Chairman.] How would you compensate for the area you exclude?

Mr. Skirving.] I should give no compensation at all, because it is worthless.

I agree with Mr. Stanford's recommendation. I agree that the country to the south which shows signs of European occupation, and because it is a good wheat country, should not be included in a native area. Harmony Block gives you a magnificent reserve for natives. There are no white people there.

I think the tendency should be to consolidate the areas.

Mr. J. H. Nicholson.] I should like to emphasise more strongly than I have done the necessity for an additional area bordering on Malietsie's, because it is the only area which would be acceptable to the large number of natives in the neighbourhood of Pietersburg, and other natives who live under similar conditions.

Mr. C. H. Nicholson.] The altitude at my office in the Groot Spelonken is between four and five thousand feet. Towards the Letaba it is about 2,000 feet. The altitude of Ramagoep's location is not more than 3,000. There is a difference of about 500 feet between Ramagoep's and the Letaba.

There is more fever near the Letaba than at Ramagoep's and Matok's. The farms near the Letaba are chiefly company farms, and are chiefly occupied by natives who pay rent.

Natives have lived at Matok's and Ramagoep's for generations. They belong to the Mathloko tribe. I know the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission. Area 4 and portion of Area 5 fall in my sub-district. Segop's location has been excluded from the Beaumont Area, and falls into the white area.

The Beaumont Areas are not suitable for the needs of the natives at the present time, and for the next ten years to come. Area 4 is more than fully occupied now. Its extent is 24,000 morgen, and its population 10,399 souls. About 30 per cent. of the area is arable. The rainfall is about 12 inches.

Chairman.] What amount of ground is necessary to sustain a native family of five?

Mr. Nicholson.] In its present worked out condition a native would get 7 to 10 bags to the morgen under favourable conditions of regular rainfall. With a 12 inch rainfall he would get about 7 bags to the morgen, 30 bags would sustain a native family. 4 morgen would therefore be enough. There are few natives who plough more than 4 morgen. They manage to subsist on that. The present occupation in Area 4 is at the rate of 2 1-3 morgen per soul.

Three farms were excluded from the area which were originally recommended by district officers. I recommend their inclusion, plus a group of farms all round the area. My reasons are that the area is overcrowded. The natives have to hire ground for the grazing of their stock. They plough very heavily.

Grange is Mr. Ross' farm. Of the farms to the north which I recommend should be included, some are beneficially occupied—11 by Europeans. Apart from one or two farms that have no water, all the farms are occupied by natives belonging to Ramagoep and Matok. Some pay rent, some are labour tenants on occupied farms.

I cannot say what the rate of increase is per thousand within that area.

Chairman.] In marking off your recommended area had you in view the present population and their increase for next ten years?

Mr. Nicholson.] I had in mind all the population that would be brought into the area. That population is 18,900, and the extent of the recommended area is 68,367 morgen. About 20 per cent. of it is arable, though most of the natives go in more for stock. All round the blue line are followers of native chiefs who live within the blue line, and I have in mind their accommodation within the blue line—that is the rent-payers among them. The area between the blue lines will not accommodate all the natives apart from rent-payers.

The red line indicates the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission.

With regard to Area 5, the yellow line indicates the area recommended by district officers before I came. The blue line is the area I recommend. I have included an additional 10 farms, which are all, except one, solely occupied by natives. The greater number of these farms belong to companies. Lomondokoppies is the only farm occupied by a European which is beneficially occupied. There are a fair number of natives living there. They are labour tenants.

There are 13,364 natives living between the blue and the red. They are living there tribally. They are Shangaans, Basutos, and Bawendas. That country is low veld—about 2,500 feet. I do not know how long the natives have been there. The rainfall is less than in Area 4, I should not like to say how much. I cannot say how much of that country is arable and productive. The natives are more pastoral than agricultural. The country is fairly broken up towards the west, undulating towards the east.

The total population within Area 5 falling in my sub-district plus the additional area recommended by me is 30,065. The population of the two locations is 10,763. The balance live within Area 5 outside the locations.

The number of natives living outside the areas recommended by me and outside Segop's is 25,917. They live among the farmers. 6,000 are rent-payers. 17,700 are labour tenants. 1,700 are on mission station.

I recommended the inclusion of Segop's location and three farms surrounding it. I would recommend now that in order to remove Segop's into a compact native area an additional area adjoining Area 5 be provided, running from Sedan No. 1811, following the Brandboontjes River to where it joins up with the Beaumont Area at Platland No. 1938.

There are 1,847 natives in Segop's and the three farms which I recommended should be added. This area is about the same extent as that which I now recommend should be

added to Area 5. The altitude is about the same. The farms in the area additional to Area 5 are mostly private farms.

There is no difficulty, as far as I know, in getting labour in my sub-district. Practically no labour is drawn from the locations. There would be a shortage of labour if the natives were removed from these farms to the native area.

Chairman.] Would there be a tendency to move from the farms into the native area?

Mr. Nicholson.] Yes, because there is a prejudice among natives to work as servants. The rent-paying native in the white area would never be able to pay his rent plus the taxes.

(In reply to *Commandant Opperman*). I know soil. I can't say how long soil retains its fertility. I have been in the district only a short time. But, generally speaking, I know that some lands remain good year after year, while others are good only for one or two years. If properly worked the ground should produce twice as much as under existing conditions of kaffir cultivation. If a native were taught he could manage more easily on four morgen than heretofore. But he must be taught, otherwise he will not be able to manage.

(In reply to *Chairman.*) I think that area 4 should remain where it is in view of the fact that the country, both to the west and the east is fully occupied by Europeans. It cannot be provided for in Area 5.

Mr. J. H. Nicholson.] The natives on Kalkfontein, t'Yferkuil, and Doornfontein, adjoining Legalie's, acknowledge Legalie as their chief. They are labour tenants.

Mr. Skirving.] Broadly, I agree with the recommendations of my district officers. I am not aware of any area where you can place the natives of Area 4. I think it desirable, however, that they should be removed if place could be found for them.

Pietersburg, 1st December, 1917

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN and Mr. BOLTMAN.

JOHAN FREDERIK KIRSTEN, JACOBUS PETRUS HAMMAN: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. Kirsten.] I am here this morning to speak of my own knowledge of Area 7.

Mr. Hamman.] I am a farmer, living at Tweefontein, in the Pietersburg district.

Mr. Kirsten.] Near Area 7 you have the Chuniespoort Mountains, with a location to the north of them. These mountains represented roughly by the blue lines on the map are a natural line. If there is going to be segregation you have a natural boundary there. You will have all the natives on one side instead of having a few farms outside the native area between the blue and red lines. If those farms were eminently suited for European occupation it might be otherwise, but they are not. To my own knowledge 23 years ago that part between the blue and the red line was thickly populated by Europeans, better populated than many parts round about here now, but the white people there have gradually cleared out, until there are hardly six farmers there to-day, except in the neighbourhood of Molespoort, where the Molips runs into the Olifants, but, in any case, I see the Molips falls outside the blue line. There are a lot of Europeans just there. I do not think there are half a dozen Europeans living between the blue and the red lines.

The farms along the Olifants have a fair amount of water. Mr. Kleineuberg is farming there, but he is giving it up after spending a lot of money. He has found that it is too far from the market for produce. His farms are Molsgat 1650, Londemaan 1525, Taboksplaats and Grootdraai. They are good farms, but too far for ordinary farming, about 50 miles.

Between the blue and the red lines, towards the east, most of the farmers are in the mountains. Marais lives on de Diepte. He still lives there, but I don't think he lives on his farming. I mean he does not make a good living. The only other white man living there is on Warmberg, where Mrs. Brill lives. Oudtshoorn is living temporarily on Goud Mijn. These farmers go in for cattle. That is all they can go in for—with a little speculation. There is no water. There is a little water on Warmberg.

Mr. Hamman.] There is water on Goud Mijn, but not so much as formerly. The farm used to be well worked. A railway line is projected there.

Chairman.] If a railway line is built would it not make a great difference to the farmers?

Mr. Hamman.] Goud Mijn is my farm. I do not mind its falling into the native area, because the water is not so good as it was.

Mr. Kirsten.] If there is to be separation let there be separation. It is no use having separation and leaving a farm or two in the native area. The object should be to

avoid having white men scattered among the natives. I do not know of any portion of the area I have referred to which is suitable for white people, except Mr. Kleinenberg's farms.

As to the health conditions, there may be a little malaria along the mountain, but it is not so bad as along the Olifants. It is very bad on the Olifants.

The altitude between the red and blue lines at the foot of the mountain is about 3,000 feet. For years they have had more rain there than in Pietersburg, but many years they have none at all. The average rainfall for the last 15 years would be difficult to say. Some years at Mpahlele's they have no water even to drink. The rainfall is more uncertain than in Pietersburg.

Mr. Hamman.] There are several farms between the red and the blue lines which are occupied by natives—Mpahlele's people. They pay rent as a rule. There are no white men on the farms. I have heard what Mr. Kirsten has said. I agree with him. I wished to say something about my farms Rooidraai, Goud Mijn, and Ijzer Mijn, which fall between the red and the blue lines. There are no natives on these farms. I have lived there myself from '96 to '99. I left because there was not enough water.

Mr. Kirsten.] Goud Mijn and the adjoining farm Mpahlele's Kraal was formerly the site of the chief's kraal, and he wants the farms very badly. A former Commissioner removed the kaffirs from the mountains to the plains, but there are still traces of kaffir occupation on the farms I have mentioned. Many farms were occupied by whites and abandoned by them.

Mr. Hamman.] Between the blue and the red lines most of the ground belongs to the Government.

Mr. Kirsten.] The ground is not good for anything but cattle. If it is kept out for whites it will be no good to them, and the mountains are a natural barrier. Chunies location should, in my opinion, fall into the white area. The ground is not much good, but it falls beyond the natural boundary I have mentioned. The location is poor, and I think the chief should be glad to exchange it for land within the area I have referred to.

Mr. Hamman, in reply to *Commandant Opperman*: I used to live in the area between the blue and the red lines. The water gave out there—even drinking water. There are other farms near the Poort where there is water. I think the land between the blue and the red lines suitable for the natives' methods of cultivation. It was formerly their country.

Commandant Opperman.] How much arable ground is there between the red and the blue lines?

Mr. Hamman.] There are several good farms. Of the central portion of the area about one-half is arable. The land south of the red line is all good ground right down to the Olifants. It is good, too, for cattle. The mountains between the red and blue lines are good for cattle. There is very little ground there to cultivate.

Mr. Kirsten, in reply to *Chairman.*] At least one-third of the land between the blue and red lines can be ploughed.

Mr. Hamman, in reply to *Chairman.*] It is a little difficult to value the land there. I should value my own farms, without improvements, at 12s. 6d. a morgen, but the rest of the areas are not more than 7s. 6d.

Mr. Kirsten.] I have lived in this district for 24 years. I know portions of the district very well. I cannot make any proposition with regard to any of the areas other than Area 7.

The Chairman.] Would it not be possible to provide for the small locations scattered throughout the district into one compact native area?

Mr. Kirsten.] It would be a great advantage certainly to put them all on one side. It would be better than having locations right among the white population. The ideal of separation is nullified by having locations in our midst.

Chairman.] It is said by certain witnesses that if these small locations eventually disappear there will be a difficulty regarding labour.

Mr. Kirsten.] My experience is that many of the followers of a chief live in the neighbourhood of his location, and perhaps if the chief moves the followers will go too. But the locations themselves are absolutely no advantage to the farmer as far as labour is concerned. The white farmer living close to a location finds great difficulty in getting labour. The native will not work for him. The difficulty is to keep the natives from the large centres. The farmer cannot pay the same wage to his labourers as is paid on the mines. The nearer you are to the location the more difficult it is to get labour. With regard to the followers on the farms, however, I can quite see that there will be a difficulty.

Mr. Hamman.] I agree.

Chairman.] Where could you place Matok and Ramagoep?

Mr. Kirsten.] I do not know the country, but how about the area extending from Groot Spelonken to the plains to the east? Most of this country can be ploughed and cultivated. The high veld breaks off at Setali's. The circumstances in the area I suggest are very much the same as in Ramagoep's.

Mr. Hamman.] Ramagoep and Matok are always hungry. Their soil is poor, and the soil east of Setali is very much better. They will exist much better there than where

they are now. The locations are extensively ploughed, but very much exhausted. If the lands rested for some time they could be restored.

Mr. Kirsten.] Ramagoep has had to pay large sums to his neighbours between the blue and the red lines for grazing and water. It has cost him a considerable sum of money. They have no room. They cannot live there. They have a fair number of stock.

With regard to Area 2, the rainfall is very uncertain.

The region south of Blaauwberg is very fine for cattle when rain falls, but the rain is uncertain. This year it is looking very well, but last year it was very poor.

I value the ground north of Matala's at 10s. It becomes worse just this side of Blaauwberg and beyond. I would not give 5s. for it. That is from the foot of the mountain to Kameelkop along the red line to the east. Blaauwberg and the immediate surroundings are excellent.

Chairman.] Explains recommendations of district officers.

Mr. Kirsten.] I think it is a good line. The ground between the red and blue lines is, I think, not much good to anybody. I do not think there is any water there. Just east of the blue line there have been a good many settlers of recent years. Nearly all the occupation has taken place during the last 4 years. I think the suggested line most suitable for separation, but I am not prepared to say that the natives will be able to exist there. The natives farm almost solely with cattle. The country is excellent for cattle. The farms between the locations are good for cattle, especially between Malietsie's and Machiehaan's. On many of the farms, too, ploughing can be done. Many of the whites between the three locations have sold their farms and moved into the area immediately east of Area 2.

I have come here out of no great personal interest, but as having an interest in the country and the district, I have thought that it would be only right for me to come here and give any information in my power. I am sorry to see that so many people have had so little interest on the question many, in fact, who are better able to give information than I.

MOLOTO and followers: Examined by Chairman.

I am a chief living in Malietsie's Location. (*Chairman* explains recommendations of Beaumont Commission).

We are not satisfied that there should be white people in between the locations. We want the Government to give us a big piece of land as far as the Mahalokwin from Malietsie's including Palmietfontein 709, up to Malaboch's, and all the farms in between Malietsie's and Matala's. We shall be very pleased if the Government will give us that land.

We wish to stay in the place where our fathers stayed. We do not want to go anywhere else.

Followers agree.

JACOB MAMABULO: Examined by Chairman.

I am chief residing on Vierfontein. I hand in a letter written by Phillip Bupape.

We understand that we are going to be driven away from the places where we are staying and have to go to some other place. We do not agree to that. We have not heard of any people being driven away. Maybe we have been told lies.

Chairman.] The Government wants to set aside certain areas as native areas so as to give natives who might be living in the white area an opportunity of buying or hiring land under certain conditions.

MAMABULO: I live on the farm Vierfontein—a Government farm. I pay no rent. I am staying there because I was driven away from where I used to stay. I was separated from my tribe. My tribe was scattered all over the farms.

I want to live where my forefathers used to live—from Haenertsburg to the mountains near Legalie's. I am frightened because I have heard that we are to be taken away to a hotter climate. We heard rumours about it.

(*Chairman* explains the position assuming that the bill becomes law.)

PETRUS BŌPAPE: Examined by Chairman.

I belong to the tribe of Mamabulo, and live on the farm Doornfontein adjoining his location. My younger brother is owner of a portion of Doornfontein. I own a portion of Cyferkuil.

We have heard that the Government wishes to put aside a certain area for natives, and we should like the Government to give us the ground between Mamabulo's and Legalie's, including Cyferkuil and Doornfontein, because the locations were granted by the Government and we were given permission by the Government to buy these farms. We should be very glad if the Government would give us the right to buy the adjoining farms where our cattle may graze. There are some farms near by, the owners of which have approached us to buy, with the consent of the Government. That is between Mamabulo's and Legalie's. The owners will sell if the Government consent.

PHILIPPUS BUPAPE: Examined by Chairman.

I endorse what my brother has said.

Pietpotgietersrust, 5th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, Commandant OPPERMAN and Mr. BOLTMAN. Also 30 natives

After the Chairman had addressed the natives and explained the objects and scope of the bill, the following chiefs and indunas were heard.

ZEBEDIELA: Examined by Chairman.

I hand in a letter. In that letter we ask that we be given a chance of thinking over this bill. We ask because we have not had time to think it over. Our heads are not curtised like white people's who grasp a thing immediately. We want time to think it over.

Chairman.] We have come here to find out what you have to say about these areas. If you can't give us any information on this point, it is no use discussing the matter any further. You say you have not had time to consider this. Your native commissioners told you three months ago why and for what purpose we were coming here, so that you have had lots of time to consult your people and to come here with definite proposals. All the native chiefs of other parts of the country where we have been have told us exactly what they want. Are you going to be an exception?

Zebediela.] We ask for time.

PRESENT:

Mr. STUBBS (Chairman) Commandant OPPERMAN, and Mr. BOLTMAN.

Examined: NATIVE CHIEF MFENE MAHALANGA.

By the Chairman.] I live on the farm Welgelegen, which is situated about 50 miles south-east of Pretoria, on the Pretoria-Middelburg boundary.

I have come to make certain representations to the Government in connection with ground.

I was born in the Mapoch Gronden. I was about 15 years when I left Mapoch Gronden.

The Mapoch war was a result of Nyabela, my father, declining to give up to the Government a native murderer, named Mampura, and granting him refuge in his reserves, when the Government took measures, imprisoned Nyabela, and sentenced Mampura to death.

My father's tribe scattered all over the Transvaal. They are still scattered, they have no location granted them.

Mapochs Gronden was acquired by my father prior to the white people coming into the Transvaal. It has been hereditarily transmitted, many generations before mine. I belong to the Ndebele tribe, my tribe and that of the Mopoch are called Ndebele. There is a tribe that closely resembles my tribe. We are nearly related to the Mapela people, called Manalas, who are also sometimes called the Mandebele. They are living close to the Hammanskraal district, in Jackalsdans. They were living with my tribe in Mapochs Gronden. Originally they come from Zululand.

We were divided, a portion of my tribe settling at Mapochs Gronden, and the Mananas settled at a place called Mnyane, Doornpoort. That was very long ago, when the country was full of wild animals and lions.

Some of my tribe is at present living at Mapochs Gronden and some of Secoecoeni's people are also living there. I cannot say how many of my father's tribe are living there, but a very large number of them are living there to-day.

Because these people had no chief, they elected a man called Japhta, so that when some tax or money had to be paid, they had the name of some authority to appear for them. Japhta was selected as headman. Any contribution, according to my people's law, that is made to Japhta, has to be reported to me, and also delivered to me. This has not been done. I am surprised that he does not do it. I have told him to do so, but he takes no notice.

The people look upon Japhta as their chief, although it is against the Madebele law. Japhta does not recognise me as chief, either. He has shown this disposition ever since the Anglo-Boer War. He came to my father once, but ever since I became chief, Japhta has not acknowledged me.

I do not know, if opportunity offered, whether the people in Mapochs Gronden would accept me as their chief.

I have been residing on Welgelegen for 13 years. Before we went there, we wandered all over the country like wild animals, but resided for a time at Hartebeestfontein, near

Derdepoort. My tribe has been scattered all over the country, mostly in the middle veld, some at Rhenosterkop, some at Carolina, and some at Lydenburg.

My object in coming before the Committee this morning was to make representations with a view to improving our conditions, as far as ground is concerned.

We pay rent at Welgelegen. We pay £1 per annum. We do not pay more for any extra wives. We look for ground ourselves, it is not given to us, but it is already becoming exhausted. There are about 60 families of my tribe living on the farm. The owner of the farm also lives on the farm, and ploughs too. We have very little stock, as it was killed by the snow.

I want to go back to Mapochs Gronden, as that is where the majority of my tribe lives. I do not know whether they would accept me as their chief. If I had the authority of the Government behind me, I think they would then acknowledge me as their chief. The Government recognizes me as a native chief.

My people who live on the high-veld would follow me to the land of my forefathers, supposing my wish was granted, because they were the people who complained bitterly that they had no permanent home, and they desire to be settled on the old tribal ground at Mapochs Gronden.

By Commandant Opperman.] My people came to me, and asked me to acquire a permanent home for them. It would be more to the interest of my people if they were provided with a location.

By the Chairman.] I cannot tell the number of my tribe, there are too many for me to count.

Present:

Mr. Stubbs (Chairman), Commandant Opperman and Mr. Boltman.

Examined: Mr. WILLIAM POTT.

By the Chairman.] I wish to give evidence as the representative of the Henderson Consolidated Corporation and the Henderson's Transvaal Estates Company.

I thought that the north-western boundary of No. 5 Native Area extended to the farm Vryheid No. 779. I know the character of that country, and I would have wished to give evidence, but as I find that this area does not extend so far, I cannot speak with personal knowledge about this area, so will leave this alone.

The really important point that I wish to bring under the notice of the Committee is within your terms of reference. It is in connection with the bar to transfer between whites of our farms in the native areas, which I consider, as drafted, is an unconstitutional confiscation of legally held vested rights. The natives cannot buy the land, the Government will not buy, and we are prevented from selling to other whites. I suggest an amendment for the removal of this injustice. I suggest that in respect of farms owned by whites and lying within areas marked for natives, that the bar to transfer to white purchasers only becomes effective after either the Government or natives have once acquired the farm for the purposes of the bill.

When a white person owning a farm within a native area becomes bankrupt, or dies, his estate has to be realised. The Government will not buy this farm, the natives cannot buy it, and it cannot be sold to a white purchaser. The natives in the Transvaal can only buy communally.

Our interest mostly lies at Malabochs, which lies within Area No. 2, and north of Middelburg. We have nine farms in native areas, of which six are solely occupied by natives.

The two farms within the Lydenburg district, within the area of your investigations, are let to Europeans for winter grazing.

The natives pay rent at £2 per hut on the Transvaal Land Owners' Association basis.

I consider that the provision made in Section 21 is entirely inadequate, and has no practical value.

I do not object to the principle of territorial separation.

I am in favour of Government expropriating farms when required for the purpose of native occupation; once they have been acquired for that purpose, those farms should never revert to Europeans, that is, the natives should not be allowed to sell to Europeans again.

I do not consider that the areas set aside by the Beaumont Commission are adequate or suitable. In my evidence before the Select Committee I told them that we owned 120,000 acres in the Mara Ward, north of the Zoutpansberg. I consider that Area No. 5 should be extended in that direction, it is more suitable for natives than Europeans. There are small patches of ground suitable for agriculture. Some of the rivers contain permanent water, and it can be inhabited very well between the Sand and the Brak Rivers and other parts. It is more a pastoral than an agricultural part. To make it capable of carrying many natives, you would have to put down boreholes for water.

I would not consider it wise to remove the natives from Area No. 2, as that is the headquarters of the Malaboch tribe, and they would not like to be moved from there; they have been living there for a very long time.

As an intermediate step, I think the principle of the neutral areas is reasonable. I have no areas in mind which might be declared neutral.

It would be impossible to sell land under Section 21. The Government should allow the natives to buy land communally. The converse of my proposal *re* white owners having the right to sell to whites within native areas until Government or natives once acquire white owner's property, would hold good, so that natives owning land in white areas could sell to natives until their land was acquired by Government or white purchasers, after which it could no more be sold to natives.

Bar on mortgaging land in Native Areas to Whites.

I fancy there are conditions in the law which interfere with companies issuing debentures secured by their farms, as some of these may be in natives areas and may not, therefore, be mortgaged to whites. We had such debentures, but we have none now.

Natives living on the high-veld would not like to be removed to the low-veld, because they are not acclimatised. The squatter's licence would compel the naties to move, because they would not pay it, nor would a landowner. The Government could assist the natives by buying the land in the first instance, and settle them individually or communally, just as is desired. The rents received should pay the interest on purchase price.

In New Zealand the Maoris held land communally, and if they wanted the land to be divided, they could go to the Land Courts and get a sub-division. I think that some such scheme could be applied to the natives here, and thus get the benefit of both individual and communal occupation. I will try and get information as to New Zealand laws on this point.

By Commandant Opperman.] The natives do not want to live in the high-veld, when removed from the Bosch Veld, because they have lived there for many years, their fathers as well as their grandfathers, and also because they have become used to the climate and class of farming. That is the same in the case of the natives living in the high-veld. The bush-veld climate would not agree with them and they would not like to leave the ground that they have occupied so long. Unless they are compelled to move, they will not move. The style of farming is different, and different class natives live in different districts.

(Sgd.) WILLIAM POTT.

26.9.17.

Pietpotgietersrust, 5th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

MR. E. T. STUBBS (Chairman), MR. BOLTMAN and COMMANDANT OPPERMAN.

Examined: Native SEFAKO MAPOCH MAKGATHO.

By the Chairman.] I have come to make representations to you in connection with the Native Land Act. I have come as a representative of the South African Native National Congress.

I live at Riverside, in the Pretoria district. It is a native township. It is about 8 miles from Pretoria market square. It is about 6 (six) miles from the municipal boundary.

The population of that township is partly native and partly European.

Most of the native inhabitants are owners of ground. The extent of the plots is 100 by 150 morgen. We get them freehold. We pay £20. When the transfer is included, we pay £25 10s.

The majority of the inhabitants of this town are in service, as domestic servants. They generally reach Pretoria by cycling, or by train. The train passing through Riverside is the Delagoa Bay train. There is a siding at Riverside.

The town is not governed in any way.

Nothing has been done there in respect of sanitation. There are just ordinary holes dug. No epidemic or disease of any sort has ever broken out in this township. The township is 11 years old. There is no municipal control there.

We have held meetings, and our people have come to the decision to ask the Government to suspend the Administration Bill until such time when our people, who have gone to fight for the Empire, will return. We can do nothing until they return and, therefore, we ask the Government to suspend the bill until the war is over.

The Government has made no provision for the families of the native men who have gone to the front.

There are native families, women and children, who have been dismissed from farms because the farmers will not wait until their husbands return from the war, to pay the rents. These men are serving the Empire, and when they return from Europe they will find their families dismissed from the farms because they cannot pay the rent. One of

these instances occurred recently at Blauwberg. Some of these people have been on these farms for many years, and once they are dismissed, they have nothing to fall back on. We want to help the Empire, we urge them to go to Europe, but in the meantime, while they are away, their families are disturbed, and dismissed from the farms because they cannot pay the rent. There are many men who want to go to Europe, but as they are not sure of their families, they cannot leave the country. We have made an appeal to the Government, but the answer we got was that the Government had no authority to prevent the farmer from dismissing his servants if he was inclined to do so.

We are ready and eager to help the Government in every way, we are ready to help in this war, but we ask the Government to suspend this bill till after the war, when we shall be more free to go on with it. You see, this bill is, in itself, war against us, as we have to fight against certain things, and we cannot give our minds to it now. The Government is asking us to go two ways, and that we cannot do. Our position is very difficult and, therefore, we ask the Government once more to withhold this Administration Bill till our people come back from the war.

Union of South Africa.
Department of Native Affairs.
Union Buildings.

2680.13.814. Pretoria, 22nd December, 1917.

EVICTION OF FAMILIES OF MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE LABOUR CONTINGENT.

The Secretary,
Eastern Transvaal Native Land Committee.

With reference to your Minute No. 171 dated the 25th September, 1917, forwarding an extract from the evidence given by Mr. S. M. Makgatho before your Committee bearing on the above subject, I have the honour to inform you that three communications dated respectively, 18th October, 5th November, and 3rd instant, were addressed to Mr. Makgatho, asking him to furnish the Government with definite particulars of the cases to which he referred.

No reply has been received to anyone of those communications.

As Mr. Makgatho's evidence may probably be published, it may, perhaps, be thought desirable by your Committee that the above fact should be given equal prominence, either by a note to the evidence, or otherwise.

(Sgd.) EDWARD DOWER,
Secretary for Native Affairs.

The *Chairman*, addressing native chief Paledi and another, said: The Government appointed me as Chairman of this Committee, and the other gentleman you see is a member of the Committee. The idea is to go round the country, and find out whether the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission as native areas are adequate and suitable. Whether these areas should be enlarged, or whether they should be made smaller. This is an important work, and I feel the importance of it. We are most anxious to hear what the natives have to say, because they are entitled to be heard. We want to know what is in their mind. I am sorry to say there are certain educated natives who have voiced their disapproval of this proposed legislation, and say they do not wish to make any representation at all, and have, from time to time, advised you not to give evidence. I think that they are making a mistake, for the reason that the native and the white man, so far as land is concerned, could never live together in one area in perfect happiness. The native should have a chance to develop on his own lines in his own territory. He should progress along lines which are most acceptable to himself, and that, in my opinion, can only be done by saying to him: "There is ground on which you can live, and on which you can develop along your own lines."

The Government is trying its best to-day to give the natives a fair chance, so that they can become a much more civilized and contented people. I cannot see that it is going to serve your cause for you to say: "Because we do not approve of this proposed legislation we will not give evidence as to the areas." How can we, then, decide what areas are best suited to the natives, and what areas are not suited to them? We want you to come forward like men, and to hear what you have to say about these areas. That is what we are here for. It is useless after the areas have been divided, for you to come forward afterwards and say that the ground does not suit you, or that it is no good to you. Now is the time to come forward and state your views about the areas. Give us, and give the Government, an opportunity to know what is in your mind. I repeat that I am sorry some of the educated natives should have taken up the attitude already described by me, because they, in doing so, may prejudice the case of the native.

We are glad to see that the natives and the chiefs living on the veld, realize that it is for their own good to come forward and tell us what is in their hearts.

PRESENT:

MR. E. T. STUBBS (Chairman).

Examined: Native Chief PALE DI MATHABE. Present also 21 Councillors of Chief.

By the Chairman.] As far as I am concerned, I am still residing on my ancestor's ground, which has been in our possession for many years. We have never moved from this ground. We live at Kwarrielaagte No. 356, in the Pretoria district.

I have always heard that the ground would be divided so that the natives would go to the bosch-veld, and the European to the middle-veld, and I am satisfied, because we live in the bosch-veld, where our ancestors have also lived.

Examined: Native Councillor KGOANYANE MAPITALA.

I thank you, Sir, for the words you have just spoken. The only thing I can do is to say the words my chief has said. It is true that where we are to-day, we have always been. When we opened our eyes, we found ourselves there, and have been there ever since. We are surrounded by farmers. Our grievance is that our cattle cannot graze where we like, because the ground we live on is small and insufficient. Our cattle cannot graze on the neighbouring farms, or they are impounded. We will be very much pleased if you will do as you have just said, and give us a little more ground. We will also then be a nation, and have our own ground for ploughing.

There are hundreds of our people living on this farm. Some of the chief's people are scattered over other farms. We have large numbers of cattle. There are no adjoining farms belonging to natives. They are all company farms.

The Chief. I have bought the portion of the farm on which we live, and I am trying to get the whole farm. I paid £2,000 for that portion, which is 1,000 morgen in extent. All our people are not living on this farm; some of them are scattered among white people. There is no running water there. The water is under the surface of the sand. The cattle drink from hollows in the sand. The class of agriculture we go in for is kaffir-corn and maize. The farm Klipfontein belongs to Mr. Smit. Buffelsfontein belongs to D. Malan. We will try to buy these farms, if the owners are willing to sell. Some of my people are living at these farms. Some of my tribe also live at Wagensdrift. Some of them are on Rietfontein. There is very little water at Rietfontein. I would like to buy all those farms surrounding my farm, including Rietfontein, if the owners are willing to sell.

Examined: Native Councillor MOLEFA MATHABA.

I am very much pleased with the letter that my Chief received calling us to come to them, and explain any grievances. I must go back to what the chief has said, that any portion of the country that has belonged to us, must be given back to us. We are like the wolf, always murmuring, and the wolf who murmurs steals. Our cattle cannot get enough grazing ground and, therefore, we are not satisfied.

Examined: Native Councillor MODIESE MATHEBE.

We are thankful for the letter which was written to the Chief. We are very grateful because it said in the paper that if we had any grievance, we must make it known to the Government. We are pleased. We are pleased because we are in great pain, we are dying. Our cattle cannot graze for any distance, then they are impounded, then we have to pay for our cattle, because they do not graze on our ground. If the Government is able to assist us, the Government must not select country which we do not know. Where we are to-day, we are surrounded by the white people, that is, where we were born. If the Government wishes to assist us, it must assist us by giving us the very ground where we are to-day, where we were born. We are getting into trouble. The farmers come to their farms in the winter, with their cattle, and if our cattle graze on their farm, they are impounded.

The Chairman.] I am glad that you have submitted your difficulties to the Committee, to explain your wishes and needs. They will be borne in mind by the Committee, in dealing with the question of these proposed native and non-native areas. Of course, the trouble with some of you is this, that you have large herds of cattle, and you find that the ground becomes cramped. I would like you to clearly understand that I cannot say to-day whether the Government is going to buy land in these proposed native areas when they are definitely fixed for the natives.

We have no doubt that the Government will consider the question of allowing the natives to buy ground within native areas subject to certain conditions, but you must clearly understand that such acquisition of land will only be sanctioned in native areas by consent of Parliament, and until we have seen the ground for ourselves we cannot say what land we will recommend as native areas to the circuit.

I hope you will live happily and contentedly with your people always remembering, whatever may be said to the contrary, that the Government is doing its best for you, and will try to satisfy your legitimate needs.

Union of South Africa,
Department of Native Affairs,
Blaauwberg, 24th October, 1917.

The Native Commissioner,
Pietersburg.

In submitting my replies to the schedule of questions by the Eastern Transvaal Natives Land Committee for the favour of forwarding, I would request that the following remarks and recommendations be very strongly brought to their notice.

The whole of the area included in the Blaauwberg sub-district is purely pastoral ground and, therefore, closer settlement is out of the question. Much of the ground included in the area cannot be settled at all unless water is provided either from wells or bore-holes, and even without an influx, it would soon become advisable to exploit some of this land owing to the incipient congestion round the natural permanent water. As an indication of what may be expected, I may state that during the last twelve months some seventy families with 800 head of cattle, 2,000 small stock and 250 donkeys, have removed into the native area (as proposed by the Beaumont Commission). The influx was only made possible by the sinking of wells, and any further influx, except of a few individual families, will only be possible when a further provision of wells is made. No doubt, to anyone not knowing this area for sometime and intimately, my suggestions as to the amount of land required must appear absurdly excessive, but I cannot insist too strongly upon the point that this district is absolutely unsuited to agriculture, and that the number of natives who can be accommodated is dependent upon the number of cattle the land will carry. If the Committee could see the country as it is at present, a very little worse than the average year, they would be amply convinced. Not only are the natives here the most backward and unprogressive, but 90 per cent. of them are syphilitic, consequently they are able to go to industrial centres in a less proportion than many other tribes, and have to depend more upon the land.

If the settlement then is to be of a permanent nature, and not intended to be revised in ten years time, I would submit that the original recommendations on which my replies have been based are insufficient, and that a further area, of which I attach a tracing, should be added. This additional ground contains no white population, about 75 native families with 1,190 head of cattle, 1,478 sheep, and 47 donkeys, 25 unalienated Government farms and 36 company farms. This country is also purely pastoral, and except as a big ranching proposition in the future would not be likely to attract a white population. The area is roughly 385 square miles. The inclusion of this in the native area would provide almost immediate accommodation for Chief Taoatsoala (originally an Induna of the Maliboch tribe), and those members of the Maliboch tribe at present in the proposed white area to the north. The country would be suitable to these people, as it is very similar to that at present occupied by them.

I should be glad if this could be strongly commended to the earnest consideration of the Committee.

(Sgd.) COLIN B. KERR.
Detached Clerk, *i.c.*,
Native Affairs Department,
Blaauwberg.

Pretoria, 11th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

FREDERICK THOMAS NICHOLSON: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Mayville, near Pretoria. I have come here representing Mr. J. P. Meyer and the Transvaal Agricultural Union, but I wish only to speak about Mr. Meyer's farms in this district, and one or two others.

I know Areas 16 and 17 in this district. I have come to support the recommendations of Mr. Meyer with reference to a modification of Area 16, so as to exclude certain farms belonging to him. These farms are indicated in the memorandum which is handed in. The several reasons are stated in the memorandum. I merely wish to-day to confirm the statement.

Chairman.] How long have the farms indicated in the memorandum been personally and beneficially occupied?

Mr. Nicholson.] Six to seven years, and longer. The average rainfall in that area is about 26 inches. The last four or five years, however, have been unusually dry. There are native families on five of these farms who work for Mr. Meyer on his farms on the high

veld. There are 75 families belonging to the Makatees. They have no chief. They are detribalised. They have resided there for many years, and their dispersion would mean a serious inconvenience.

Chairman.] Do you think there would be a dispersion?

Mr. Nicholson.] Well, if the farms became part of a native reserve they would pass out of Mr. Meyer's family, and he would not be able to claim the services of the natives as being resident on his property. A resolution has been passed by our Union to the effect that in native areas there should be only native owners, and similarly in the white areas. If Mr. Meyer's farms are included in the native area he will be obliged to buy other farms in order to provide himself with labour.

Chairman.] There is nothing to prevent a white owner from retaining his farms in the native area.

Mr. Nicholson.] Farmers are very much opposed to white people residing in areas set apart for native occupation. The areas must be native pure and simple, and they have actually asked that the Government should purchase at once. I cannot say whether that is within the bounds of practical politics. If Mr. Meyer did not have these farms to provide him with labour he could not carry on his farming operations on the high veld. These farms are a sort of reservoir of labour on which he draws in order to keep his high veld farms supplied.

Only four of the farms in question are occupied by whites. The others are reserved by Mr. Meyer for his winter veld. The farms which Mr. Meyer wants excluded from the native area are between middle veld and low veld. His high veld farms are in Bethal, Heidelberg, and Standerton districts.

I am a practical farmer. I do not think that we have any grass at present which will answer on the high veld for winter grazing.

Chairman.] What about Paspalum?

Mr. Nicholson.] That does not answer in this country, I do not know for what reason.

Chairman.] We have seen a wonderful field of Paspalum.

Mr. Nicholson.] Yes, that is so. But here though you will find it growing luxuriantly along every furrow, you will not get an animal to touch it even where there is no other grass. There is something in it which our cattle will not readily take to. It was brought here with a great flourish of trumpets, but it has not been successful. I think that is due to climate and soil conditions, which make all the difference in the value of the grass and in the taste to the animal. It is almost like tobacco growing, where climate and soil have great influence. I agree that if you could find suitable exotic grasses, and built proper sheds for cattle and sheep, it would go a long way towards obviating trekking in winter. In the middle veld and semi-middle veld the kikuyu grass has answered splendidly.

Chairman.] Suppose that grass did well in the high veld?

Mr. Nicholson.] That is just what it will not do. It will answer only in the middle veld and semi-middle veld. I agree exotic grasses and sheds for cattle and sheep would revolutionise stockfarming, and undoubtedly in course of time people will be driven to that expedient.

There is another thing in connection with the part of the area with which we are dealing now. The Bourkes and Marais and others have bought a number of farms recently in the immediate neighbourhood of the area. They are going in for cattle ranching on a large scale. Stock farming is difficult enough without increasing the risk of stock thefts.

Chairman.] Wherever you have natives indiscriminately settled among white people without the control of the white man, there is, as a rule, a good deal of complaint?

Mr. Nicholson.] Where you have kaffir farming I agree, but where you have natives living on your farm the conditions are not the same. If you have kaffir farming there is a great deal in what you say.

Chairman.] If the farms you mention were excluded how would you propose to remodel the area?

Mr. Nicholson.] The position is this. These farms of Mr. Meyer's are in the S.S.E. and E. of Area 16. Many of the farms there that do not belong to Mr. Meyer have been taken up by Messrs. Bourke, Marais, and Struben, and others, and they are going in for cattle ranching in the area south of Swartbooi's location, and to the east and north.

Chairman.] Assuming that it is necessary to have an area the same size as the one proposed by the Beaumont Commission, what would you suggest as an alternative?

Mr. Nicholson.] My idea was this. You have got a railway line her to the East of the area. Therefore I think any extension should take place towards the west.

Chairman.] Would you link up areas 9 and 16 and give the compensation in the intervening area?

Mr. Nicholson.] Yes. I would suggest the inclusion of the area between areas 9 and 16. This area that I want excluded is much better suited to white people than the area between areas 9 and 16. Moreover the area between areas 9 and 16 contains several locations already, and some of the farms are already Native-owned. And furthermore there is no railway there. The area on either side of the railway line up to Warmbaths is admirably suited to cattle ranching and the railway will naturally facilitate the industry.

Already along either side of the line farms are being taken up with a view to cattle-ranching on a very large scale. Mr. Struben has sold his farm near Belfast with the object of going ranching there.

Other than the 75 families already alluded to there are no other natives living on the farms I want excluded.

I may say that I have been asked by the Marais to bring up this question of cattle ranching. So I am speaking with their authority.

Commandant Opperman.] Are you acquainted with the nature of the ground in the northern portion of the Pretoria District where it adjoins the Waterberg District?

Mr. Nicholson.] Yes.

Commandant Opperman.] What is the value of the ground say from Zwartkoppies to Hamanskraal

Mr. Nicholson.] From Onderspoort to Hamanskraal I should say the ground was middle class in value. From Hamanskraal to Pienaarsriver Bridge is the best cattle country that can be found. Portions of it can be cultivated.

Commandant Opperman.] Can this ground be brought under irrigation?

Mr. Nicholson.] The ordinary conditions there are that a few obtain good harvests. Once in three years they do well. With water there would be good prospects for agriculture.

Chairman.] Did Mr. Marais know that those areas had been recommended.

Mr. Nicholson.] No. The Marais' had purchased certain farms there before there was any question of a native area. They have bought other farms more recently.

Chairman.] What rivers may be used to advantage for irrigation?

Mr. Nicholson.] There is very little land that can be placed under irrigation owing to the formation of the country itself. There are only two rivers, the Apies and the Pienaars. The possibilities are limited. It is principally a cattle country. It is not good for sheep under present conditions, but it will be in years to come.

JOHANNES PETRUS MEYER: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Klipriversberg. I have been in this district 70 years. I know the district thoroughly. I am acquainted with all the farms, and I know the value they possess. There are certain of my farms which are not of much value, but they are my winter farms. I am a cattle farmer on a large scale.

Chairman.] What is the value of your farms?

Mr. Meyer.] Taking Buffelsdrift first, Salomon Makapan offered me £3 10s. a morgen for it. It is good for agriculture as well as for cattle. It adjoins the natives' ground. Zaagkuildrift is on the Pienaars River, and is about the same value as Buffelsdrift. There is one white man on Buffelsdrift. He sows a little, but for the most part he cuts "vlei-grass." There are a lot of natives on Wynandskraal. The Apies runs through it. The water is not permanent. Dams and pits have to be made. The value of Wynandskraal and Boschplaats is considerable. With dams hundreds of people could exist there. I could put a dam on Boschplaats. The Apies runs right through it, and I could lead water from Boschplaats to Wynandskraal. There are white people on Sterkwater.

Chairman.] Which of your farms are of the greatest value to you for your farming purposes?

Mr. Meyer.] For my servants Boschplaats and Wynandskraal are more valuable than Buffelsdrift. Half of the lastnamed farm belongs to natives.

Mr. Boltman.] Would it not be a good plan to sell Buffelsdrift to the natives?

Mr. Meyer.] I should not object to that, but I want to keep Wynandskraal and Boschplaats.

Chairman.] The difficulty about excluding the farms you mention is that you would be driving a white wedge into the native area.

Mr. Meyer.] I see the force of that objection. If it could be done, and if I could keep the farms Wynandskraal, Boschplaats, and Sterkwater, I should not object very much to the inclusion in the native area of the farms Stinkwater, Bezuidenhoutskraal, Zaagkuil-drift, and Buffelsdrift. I should very much like Stinkwater excluded too, because I get my supply of poles from there. I should lose heavily if that farm were included in the native area. Half of it belongs to Daniel Erasmus. There are some white people living on Stinkwater.

I think that in order to compensate for the exclusion of my farms an area might be given between Areas 9 and 16, linking up the two.

Commandant Opperman.] What do you think of the country running from the Zoutpan to the western boundary of Area 16?

Mr. Meyer.] I think it is some of the best country in the Pretoria district. The native tribes there came in under the protection of the old Government, who granted them locations in the best parts.

Commandant Opperman.] Do you not think that if the Pretoria district is obliged to give up these large areas in the north it is being unjustly treated?

Mr. Meyer.] Yes. If that part is included in a native area cattle farming will be

ruined for ever. That part was in the early days used for cattle. I do not think that cattle farming can be continued if that portion is included in a native area.

Chairman.] If these areas are cut out where would you put the natives?

Commandant Opperman.] I should give them an even larger portion in the area south of Areas 16 and 17.

Mr. Nicholson.] With reference to the locations in Area 16, they were granted to the natives under the condition that if the ground were required by the Government they could be dispossessed. I have heard that from various sources. No doubt there would be some record of it.

Commandant Opperman (to Mr. Meyer): Do you think that there are good prospects of irrigation in the northern part of the district if dams were made on the Aapies, Pienaars, and Elands Rivers?

Mr. Meyer.] Five to six hundred persons could be provided for in the eastern portion of Area 16.

Commandant Opperman.] Are any irrigation schemes possible in Area 17?

Mr. Meyer.] I do not know the country well enough to say.

Pretoria, 12th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

FRANCIS EDGAR KANTHACK: Examined by Chairman.

I am the Director of Irrigation for the Union of South Africa.

Chairman.] We should like you to tell us shortly what irrigation schemes are projected in native areas.

Mr. Kanthack.] The only two which can be considered at all in the near future are the one known as the Loskop project, and the one on the Komati. The Loskop scheme is estimated to be capable of irrigating 17,000 morgen, at a cost of £812,000. I hope to reduce that cost considerably. The scheme is now unnecessarily elaborate.

In the Loskop scheme the dam begins at the farms Loskop and Vergelegen. There are two lots of irrigable land. One begins at Kalkfontein and finishes at Rondavel 86. The second lot begins at Schynsdraai 184, and extends right away to Mooiplaats. This is all the Loskop scheme. From the infall of the Moos River to Schynsdraai there is practically no arable land at all.

Chairman.] What would be the scheme of settlement in that area?

Mr. Kanthack.] The Government are anxious, as far as possible, to run it as a co-operative scheme. On the basis of 17,000 morgen at least 1,700 settlers can be settled in the area. That is if you go in for the 10 morgen proposition, or say, roughly, 1,500. The scheme will have to go through a preliminary stage first. The big man must come in first. It is possible that it will go through the stage first of large ranching propositions, coupled with irrigation for growing fodder, and thus gradually develop into closer settlement.

Chairman.] What would the value of the land be under the scheme?

Mr. Kanthack.] I should not care to put the value of the land at more than £20 a morgen. It is a big area, and there is a heavy capital charge which must be added. Odd bits of land may be worth £100 a morgen, but taking the block I do not think it would be worth more than £20 a morgen. The altitude is about 3,000 feet on the average. It varies from 3,400 to 2,800. It is middle veld, and very slightly malarious. In its present state there is fever there, but not always.

Chairman.] Are there any means of ridding this area of malaria?

Mr. Kanthack.] I should not care to say that it is possible to rid the area of fever altogether. It is possible to steer clear of fever, but with an irrigation scheme of that sort you are practically helping fever. You cannot remove the breeding grounds of the mosquito and irrigate at the same time. Experience has shown, however, that it is quite possible to have large irrigation areas in malarious country, and at the same time keep the inhabitants tolerably clear of fever. You must, of course, have suitable buildings.

Chairman.] When the scheme is finally launched will the Government build houses for the settlers?

Mr. Kanthack.] That has never been contemplated. Take the Tzaneen which has just been allotted. You try to attract the settler who has sufficient capital to be able to live there. All these propositions are, in my opinion, entirely unsuited for the poor white class. A man must have a certain amount of capital in order to equip himself and protect himself from malaria. In fact, I do not think any of these irrigation schemes are likely to be a sucess unless the settler has some considerable capital. Without capital it is one terrible struggle.

Chairman.] What class of settler have you in mind, with what amount of capital?

Mr. Kanthack.] So long as a man has £500 he can be assisted. I should not care about any settler who has less than that.

Chairman.] Do you think there would be any objection from the point of view of white settlement to allowing the natives access to the river at points where the interval occurs between the two irrigable areas?

Mr. Kanthack.] The only thing against that is that wherever you have anything in the nature of close settlement along a river you are invariably faced with a shortage of grazing veld. We are recognising that in connection with schemes like the Hartebeestpoort. It is essential to keep the natives a good way off. There is very good grazing veld in that area. There are certain ranching schemes in contemplation, and though the area in question is not arable, it may be exceedingly valuable grazing country. The scheme is mainly one of agriculture it is true, but like nearly all the schemes in this country its future is going to be very high-class stock farming, irrigation being an adjunct.

Chairman.] What about the Xapies and Pienaars Rivers?

Mr. Kanthack.] There are quite a number of schemes there in private hands, but native Areas 16 and 17 are not affected in any way. The schemes are all outside the areas.

Chairman.] Is there any feasible scheme on the Elands River?

Mr. Kanthack.] There is nothing in the native area that I should recommend. There are no feasible irrigation schemes in Area 16 either. The schemes on the Xapies and Pienaars fall outside the area.

Chairman.] Do you know anything about the country along the Upper Elands?

Mr. Kanthack.] I do not know that part of the country.

Chairman.] Now, with regard to the Komati scheme. It has been stated to us in evidence at Barberton that 400 square miles of territory can be placed under irrigation in that area.

Mr. Kanthack.] Mr. Liebenberg and I recently explored that country—since your visit. Captain Elphick accompanied us as guide. Mr. Liebenberg will give evidence to you on the point too. But we are entirely of the same mind. While we were there it was raining heavily, and we could get up no higher than the Tango Rapids below Figtree, about 10 miles above Squamans. From what I had seen of the river all the way up I thought it was essential to get to the head of the Rapids if any large irrigation scheme were to be considered. Above that it is quite possible that by going up to the Swaziland border a great deal more could be irrigated, but, taking the water out at the Rapids, I estimate that 10,000 morgen could be irrigated, or, eliminating some stony patches, say 8,000 morgen. This land is comparatively easy to irrigate. The contours of the country lend themselves to irrigation. There is a very decided ridge on the east side, but the country presents no difficulties whatever. We trekked right across from the river to the Lebombo range in two places, and found that the greater part of the soil is suitable for irrigation, and very rich. It is exceptionally rich, a red light loam. Most of it, except in the bottom of the "laagtes" seemed a very free-working soil. There is a little heavy soil in the hollows. It is suitable for any sub-tropical fruit.

I should look upon this area as I do upon Tzaneen. You want to put people upon it who will develop the particular product which that type of country will produce. You want to specialise.

The west bank we were unable to explore. The only conclusion we could arrive at was that whenever we touched the river on the east we were looking down on the other side. It is lower, and there are, generally speaking, obvious facilities for irrigating. It is more cut up. There are more dongas than ravines. It might be a little more expensive, and I should not like to venture an opinion as to how much could be irrigated. On the east side I took a large number of experimental observations, and the figures I have given are substantially correct.

On the other hand, there was one thing that struck us at once. That was that as soon as you get away from the river the country does not appear to be suitable for natives. There is not a drop of water away from the river. Such natives as there are all hug the river. They rely absolutely on the river. Crossing from Squamans due east to the Lebombo Range there is no sign of there ever having been any native occupation. There is no indication how primitive natives are going to live in that country at all. The natives in the area are very backward. I am not a native expert, but I never realised that the Swazis were such an exceedingly low type. They use the hoe very largely.

Chairman.] Would you say that, broadly speaking, more land than you have stated could be placed under irrigation?

Mr. Kanthack.] Yes, I have no doubt. From information that I have had from many people who go shooting in that area it seems that the character of the river is the same above the Rapids, and that by going towards the Swazi border the irrigation area could be considerably increased. It is surprising what a large amount of water there is in the Komati. We can rely upon there being enough water for any scheme between the Rapids and the Swazi border. I certainly think that the east side is the more favourable, owing to the contours of the country. Cross drainage is not such a difficulty as on the other side, where there are dongas and spruits. Most of the ground in the Komati Valley is

owned by the Government. All the land affected by the Olifants River scheme is privately owned.

Chairman.] Would the Government be prepared to expropriate?

Mr. Kanthack.] The Government is very much opposed to State schemes. The idea is to get the owners to co-operate. We have a great deal of money in co-operative schemes. They have been such a success that the Government would certainly be disposed to continue them.

The Komati would have to be a Government scheme as it is all Government ground.

We did not survey the Lomati. It was quite impossible to get across anywhere and the whole of that country was inaccessible. I can say, however, that the irrigation possibilities there are not so good as on the east side of the Komati.

£20 per morgen capitalisation would probably be the figure for the east side of the Komati. On the other side it would probably be another £5 per morgen capital cost.

Chairman.] Can you tell us roughly what area of ground in the whole of that area would be capable of irrigation right up to the Swazi border and including the Komati and Lomati Valleys?

Mr. Kanthack.] I would not care to say that more than 20,000 morgen altogether would be capable of irrigation. I should value that ground at £30 a morgen. The railway is quite near and it is near to a sea-port. The road along the Lebombo Flats even in its present state is quite good, and the country rather lends itself to easy road-making. The average altitude is about 800 feet. The area is malarious. My remarks with reference to the Olifants River apply with rather more force here.

A greater economic use of irrigable land can be made by Europeans than by natives. Our experience of natives on irrigable land has not been encouraging. The Natal Native Trust have two large Irrigation Schemes, one on the Lower Tugela and one on the Mooi River. They have invested about £80,000 on these two schemes, and the use which has been made of them by natives is very small.

Chairman.] What class of natives are they

Mr. Kanthack.] I should say that they are of a rather more advanced type than any natives I have seen in the Transvaal.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the natives do not avail themselves of irrigation at all because the moment they do so the white man swoops down and takes the land

Mr. Kanthack.] That is not so in Natal. It is ridiculous to maintain that the native is making any use of his opportunities.

Chairman.] Don't you think that in the next fifty years the native may possibly make as good use of irrigable land as the white man

Mr. Kanthack.] Unless the natives' circumstances drive him to it, I do not see what is going to induce him to work hard enough to irrigate. Perhaps the class of native on the high-veld who is making £700 a year might make use of irrigation. I should say that some reasonable provision should be made for that class of native, but I am not prepared to say to what extent we might give him irrigable land. As soon as you get a native of that type the question of segregating him becomes very difficult. It is impossible to suppress him. I am in favour of territorial separation. I think if that class of man gets among his own people he can do more to uplift them than he could do if he remained among the white men.

Chairman.] Do you consider it would be more advisable to have these areas as compact as possible and as far removed as possible from European areas?

Mr. Kanthack.] Yes. I am in not in favour of little black islands in the white area. Such islands would be a continual source of irritation and trouble. In the Cape they are an unmitigated nuisance. I don't say it is necessary to have them removed to remote parts but, in any case, they should be in large blocks. The worst cases are in Griqualand West and Bechuanaland. The whole country is peppered with small locations, and they are a constant source of irritation.

High-veld areas are essentially white areas.

I know the Steelpoort, but before going on to that topic, I want to say that we also looked at the Crocodile with a view to discovering any irrigation possibilities. We trekked all through the country between the Crocodile and the railway from Komatipoort to Malelane. Now that is country which both Mr. Liebenberg and I think entirely unsuited for white settlement—that is, close settlement or anything in the irrigation line. It is low veld and good grazing country. There are little patches all along the river of level ground, but half a mile from the river you get on to a bluff where the soil is very thin. The rock seldom lies at a greater depth than 3 feet. The cost of irrigating the small amount of useful land would be prohibitive. I would rather leave the question of the quality of the grazing veld to Mr. Liebenberg. While, no doubt, he considers that a lot of the land is excellent stock-country, he agrees with me that it has no irrigation possibilities. The country is full of coal.

I know the White River Settlement. I had to condemn it entirely as a settlement and advised the Government to abandon it. The Government has now sold it. It is entirely unsuitable as a settlement.

Chairman.] What could be done with that country?

Mr. Kanthack.] I dare say along the White River which is a good river from a water point of view quite a considerable amount of development could be done by white enterprise. Individual irrigation schemes are possible on both sides. There are some very enterprising people up there, and I quite believe that there are good possibilities for citrus.

Chairman.] Could you irrigate higher than the junction of the two branches of the White River?

Mr. Kanthack.] No. Any scheme by which the area north of that point could be irrigated would not affect the White River Settlement Area. Anything lying in Section F would not affect the White River. If Section F were created a native area it would not affect the position of settlers in Section E.

Chairman.] Have you formed any opinion with regard to Area 18?

Mr. Kanthack.] I have no use for that area at all. The north side of the Crocodile is not so good as the south bank. The country is poor. The exclusion of Area 18 would not assist the position at all. The local people were very anxious to bring us down to Area 18. They thought it had great possibilities, but it is not so.

The possibilities of the White River Settlement are very limited. Anything in the nature of close settlement is impossible. The soil is poor, and the land immediately adjoining the river is swampy, while the land above that again is very rocky. There is a certain amount of good stuff on the top, but it is very expensive getting water there. It is a light, sandy soil. It is all made up of the wash from the Berg which is largely quartzite and sandstone. The soil is probably best suited for fruit. It is not a rich soil. The soil in the Lydenburg district below the Berg would probably be similar.

With regard to the Steelpoort, I know only portions of it —the portion near Mapochs principally, and near de Lagersdrift. It is rich country. I do not know the lower reaches of the river. We have no projected scheme there. It was looked at before Union by the Transvaal Irrigation Department, but there was nothing in it. There is room for individual enterprise on almost every farm along the river. It is a good river. There is a good deal of water, but there is no room even for a small co-operative scheme. There is for individual enterprise. The country is malarious as soon as you get down below a certain altitude. I do not know the Waterval Valley.

Chairman.] There you have large strips of land under irrigation, and also in the Ohrigstad Valley.

Mr. Kanthack.] And there is no doubt that the conditions will be improved there considerably. The farmers are combining there and we are going to see how we can help them.

The only other irrigation schemes that we are working on at all are in the Tzaneen area. There is a scheme which has been fully surveyed, but it is a rather difficult one, and we want to give the settlers a little time to settle down before we get them to go in for it. That is confined to the Tzaneen area and the Pazela Block. I am now working on the Koedoes River Area. There are great possibilities all along the Koedoes.

If all the locations were eliminated in the Pietersburg district it would make settlement all along the Koedoes very much easier.

Chairman.] It has been suggested that the farms adjoining Zebediela's Location to the south should be excluded from the native area.

Mr. Kanthack.] Yes. I should like to see the natives put further over to the east.

Chairman.] Now, with regard to Blood River, there has been some talk, has there not, of irrigation possibilities there?

Mr. Kanthack.] There are a lot of individual possibilities. There are a lot of small propositions. Probably every farm has some possibilities. There is nothing in the nature of a comprehensive scheme. They are farm improvement schemes, which might lead to cutting up the farms into three or four.

There are no schemes immediately to the east of the proposed Area 7. Where the rivers come out of the Berg there are a great number of water power schemes, but nothing in the way of irrigation.

Chairman.] There are 290,000 natives approximately on the high-veld. Would you think it reasonable to provide them with land which approximates in conditions to high-veld?

Mr. Kanthack.] Yes, I do.

With regard to the Olifants River scheme, so long as there is elbow room for the future, I am perfectly convinced that the future is going to be meat. The native areas must be sufficiently far away to preclude any shortage of veld within a few generations. I do not think that one farm deep on either side of the river is sufficient for a proposition of that kind. Two farms deep would be safe.

Chairman.] How are you going to deal with the natives in the location close to the river?

Mr. Kanthack.] I should do the same as was done in the Hartebeestpoort scheme and arrange an exchange.

Chairman.] Suppose you had two farms deep on either side of the river, do you consider that it would be a fair compensation to these people and also to a proportion of the high-veld natives to give them the lower portion of Sekoeeni Ward right down to the boundary?

Mr. Kanthack.] Two farms deep is hardly sufficient. It would be barely five miles. If one is going to spend the best part of a million on a scheme like that and encourage the meat business, one has to have at least ten miles back from the river. That would freeze out the natives from farms deep away from the river. There is no possibility afterwards of extension.

Chairman.] Suppose you did that and you were given these ten miles on either side of the river, what area would you provide for these natives including those on the high-veld.

Mr. Kanthack.] I find it difficult to answer that question. My contention is that unless we can be guaranteed at least ten miles on either side, I do not think such a scheme is feasible. Plenty of elbow room is essential in such a scheme for grazing, and a scheme like this is bound to develop into high-class cattle-raising for meat.

Chairman.] Suppose we gave you all the elbow room you want on this side—the western side, between Areas 7 and 17?

Mr. Kanthack.] On the east the possibilities are far greater than on the west. So they could do with comparatively less grazing ground on the western side.

There is no other point on which I should care to offer an opinion.

There is nothing in the Piet Retief Area. I can give no evidence on that country at all.

I know the area between Areas 16 and 9. There are no irrigation possibilities there. There is nothing there on any scale at all below Beestekraal. Beyond that, northwards, there is nothing outside individual farm possibilities.

Pretoria, 14th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

DANIEL PIETER LIEBENBERG: Examined by Chairman.

I am Controller of Land Settlement for the Union, and live at Pretoria. I have lived thirty years in the Transvaal, and am well acquainted with conditions here. I wish to make certain representations in connection with native and non-native areas in the eastern Transvaal.

Taking Middelburg first, I wish to say something with reference to the Loskop Irrigation scheme on the Olifants River. This scheme starts at Loskop. The irrigable land begins at Kalktontein.

Chairman.] When was this scheme first contemplated?

Mr. Liebenberg.] In 1907.

Chairman.] Can you tell us why the Department of Lands did not make representations with regard to this scheme at the time of the Beaumont Commission, so that they might have had this information in determining the areas?

Mr. Liebenberg.] I am not aware of the reason.

In this scheme one irrigable area begins at Kalktontein, and extends down to the northern boundary of Goedehoop. Then there is an interval from the northern beacon of Goedehoop to the farm Schynsdraai. From there another irrigable area extends along both banks until you get to Mooiplaats 568. That includes 17 farms on the eastern side and 9 on the western side. The upper scheme involves 7 on the eastern side and 6 on the western side.

Chairman.] In order to carry out a scheme of that kind, would you say that the exclusion of a line of farms one deep all along the Olifants River would meet your requirements?

Mr. Liebenberg.] It all depends upon the area we require for grazing. If you have an irrigation scheme, it follows that you want a certain amount of grazing. I do not think a line of farms one deep would be sufficient. I think two farms deep on either side of the river would be adequate to our needs.

Chairman.] What about the requirements of the natives who front on the Olifants River and depend upon the river for their water? Middelburg witnesses have suggested that these natives might be given the farms to the north from Veeplaats to Mooiplaats. What do you say to that?

Mr. Liebenberg.] I quite admit that these natives must have access to water, and if access is to be given, it would be better to give it at the tail end of the scheme. Otherwise you would always have people complaining of the natives grazing stock on their property, and there would be constant friction. If two farms on either side of the river are kept for whites, that would be big enough. Four miles on either side of the river would be ample for grazing, that is, eight miles from end to end.

The value of ground placed under irrigation would probably be from £25 to £30 per morgen.

Chairman.] With regard to this gap between the two irrigable areas, could that be reserved for natives?

Mr. Liebenberg.] Yes, I should think that would be feasible.

Chairman.] As compensation for the river farms taken out of the native area, would you say the area between the yellow lines would be suitable?

Mr. Liebenberg.] That depends upon how many natives there are to be provided for.

Chairman.] About 35,000 in the district, and a large number of natives who have been born on the high-veld.

Mr. Liebenberg.] Yes, I think that would be sufficient, but I do not know whether the land indicated would be suitable for natives. I do not know, for instance, whether there is water. On the whole, I think it would be adequate and suitable compensation. If the land we require on the Olifants River, in the Pretoria, Middelburg and Waterberg districts, be excluded from the native area, I think that it is fair to extend the native area southwards, but not further south than the yellow line.

I think that where it is possible to irrigate, it is not advisable to have natives within the irrigable area.

Supposing it were possible to irrigate the Blood River, I am not sure that there would be sufficient area between the river and the boundary of the native area as now suggested to provide grazing. Perhaps, therefore, it would be better to put back the yellow line one farm deep so as to allow of sufficient grazing for the settlers.

It is in the interest of the development of agriculture that the area I want excluded should be reserved for agricultural purposes.

Chairman.] Suppose the Government did carry out a scheme of this description, and the six farms at the tail end were conceded to the natives, would these farms fall into the scheme in the ordinary course?

Mr. Liebenberg.] Yes, and they would be available for the type of native who would make the best use of irrigation.

Chairman.] Do you think that scheme is likely to be taken up by co-operative measures?

Mr. Liebenberg.] I think it will be by the Government. The scheme will, I think, be undertaken if the farms are excluded from the native area. We have the facilities for a dam, and we have the land below, so there is nothing to prevent the Government from carrying out the scheme.

With regard to Area 19, I know that that has been proposed as a native area by the Beaumont Commission.

Chairman.] Some very strong arguments have been put up in favour of its retention.

Mr. Liebenberg.] I have been up there quite recently with Mr. Kanthack, and we went up as far as the Tango Falls, that is, up the right bank past Squamans. The land on that side is particularly good for agriculture. It is very rich country.

Chairman.] It has been said that 400 square miles can be placed under irrigation. Do you think that is possible?

Mr. Liebenberg.] I certainly think that on the right bank, taking the water from the Tango Falls, 10,000 morgen could be irrigated. Taking the whole area, I think it would be more than 20,000 morgen. Standing on the Squamans side, all the land on the opposite side of the river is lower than the land on the Lebombo side. From the Tango Falls to Komati Poort, it is estimated that roughly 10,000 morgen can be brought under command of a canal, if the water were diverted at the Falls. A similar area could be placed under irrigation on the left bank. It, therefore, follows that an area of approximately 18,000 to 20,000 morgen can be brought under command of two canals if the water were diverted at the Tango Rapids.

What area it would be possible to bring under irrigation from the Komati and Lomati Rivers if the Komati were taken out near the Swazi border, and the Lomati at the same place, it is impossible to say at the present moment, but I consider, roughly, that twice as much could be brought under irrigation.

The soil in that area is a very rich loam. You have red soil at Komatipoort, on the Lebombo side. I assume the same rich soil exists on the left bank. The area is malarious, but I think settlement would gradually eliminate the mosquito to a very great extent. You will tame the country by settling it. You have only to look at Tzaneen and the low parts of the Pietersburg district. Twenty years ago no man could live there. To-day it is thickly populated. The mosquito recedes before settlement. That is my experience.

Chairman.] What class of agriculture is that area suited to?

Mr. Liebenberg.] Tropical and sub-tropical fruits, Citrus and sugar-cane. I would rather not express an opinion as to wheat. It may be too low. I tried an experiment with wheat at Tzaneen. I must say I was rather successful. I was expecting about a thousand bags, but the rust came along and killed it. It is the experience, broadly speaking, that wheat does not answer in low altitudes. In the Komati Area I would rather not express an opinion about wheat at all.

Chairman.] To what class of agriculture is that area suited?

Mr. Liebenberg.] Small holdings of 20 to 25 morgen. They would be small sugar plantations. The settlement would be quite close to the railway and a sea-port.

The value of the land when the irrigation scheme is carried out, would be from £30 to £35 per morgen.

Chairman.] Now, in order to adequately compensate and make suitable provision for the natives of the Barberton district, would you say it would be reasonable and adequate to include Sections E and F excluding, if possible, the White River Settlement. If you took, say, as a boundary, the Pretorius River?

Mr. Liebenberg.] Yes. I think you could settle natives more closely here than in the Komati Area. The little spruits in Sections E and F are more suitable for natives than the one big river in the Komati Area. In the Komati Area there are no natives away from the river. The class of native in Area 19 is not the class of native who can make use of irrigation for the next hundred years to come. Therefore, he can be more suitably provided for in Sections E and F. I cannot speak with authority as to the water in Sections E and F, but I have been told that there is good water. I agree that any sacrifice individuals may have to make in Sections E and F will be more than compensated for from a State point of view by Area 19. You have got to sacrifice, more or less, in order to acquire the bigger thing. If I could place one or two thousand settlers on the Komati it would be a tremendous thing for the country. Land that is capable of irrigation is very limited and, therefore, it is to the interest of the country that as much of the irrigable land as possible should be reserved for Europeans, while ensuring, of course, that the native has sufficient land for his needs, having regard to the manner in which he cultivates the land.

With regard to the area along the Crocodile, we went over that area very carefully, and found that it is not suitable for a big scheme, for instance, by taking out the water at the junction of the Queens and the Crocodile. You would have to take the river out very high up to bring a great deal of land under irrigation. We do not think there is sufficient suitable land. Owing to the character and contours of the country round there an irrigation scheme would be so expensive that it would not be justified, chiefly because there is not sufficient arable land to justify the scheme. But there are considerable patches of land from Kaapmuiden right down that could be irrigated under individual schemes.

I think that area should fall in the European Area if possible, more especially as it lies along the railway line. From Kaapmuiden to Komatipoort should be reserved for European purposes.

There is another piece of land in which we are interested—that is, on the left bank of the Olifants, from Mafefe's to Mabin's Location. You have there some very fine alluvial soil, and it was suggested to us sometime ago that we should approach the commission to exclude that area.

Chairman.] What would you give in exchange?

Mr. Liebenberg.] I cannot say. I should like to see that strip excluded. Mafefe's and Mabin's could be retained in the native area, but Secororo's should be excluded. It is a very valuable bit of country. It can be irrigated. It is malarious. It is Crown land.

Those are the only three points upon which I wish to make representations on behalf of the Lands Department. I think it is of vital importance that these areas should be excluded from the native area.

Mr. Boltman.] Is there anything in Area 16 in the way of irrigation schemes.

Mr. Liebenberg.] No. But outside the area on the Elands River there may be something. On the farm Klipdrift 123, outside Area 16, there was an idea of setting up an irrigation scheme. Area 17 is hopelessly dry land. Between the railway line and Pienaars River there is a certain area that can be irrigated extending also to the north of Area 16, but outside the area.

Chairman.] Do you know the country between Areas 9 and 16?

Mr. Liebenberg.] Yes. It is entirely stock country.

Chairman.] Would you say that if any area were excluded immediately around Zwartbooi's Location to the north-east and south an additional area might be added in the area between Areas 9 and 16?

Mr. Liebenberg.] If any addition were necessary it might be made between Areas 9 and 16, but due regard would have to be had to European interests.

Chairman.] We want to view this question as a broad South African one.

Mr. Liebenberg.] I am sure that sacrifices will have to be made on both sides. There are sure to be cases of hardship which cannot be prevented.

There are hundreds of natives working land with irrigation who would certainly appreciate having an area in native area where they can apply the same methods. I refer to the districts of Lydenburg, Middelburg, Rustenburg, Potchefstroom and Marico. There are many white people who could find something to learn in water-leading from some of the natives in the Rustenburg district. I certainly think that the native living among white men is infinitely superior to the native living under tribal rule. Such natives will not go back to the locations. In many instances they have forgotten their native tongue.

Chairman.] We have got on the high-veld 75 per cent. of the natives who come from Zululand and Swaziland and other parts. It is argued by a section of the people that it is not our business to provide land for these natives, because if they want to buy or lease

land they can go back to their own territories. The danger I see is that you reduce your labour supply by 75 per cent.

Mr. Liebenberg.] Yes. And I do not think it is just either.

I know the Carolina and Ermelo districts. The land in the Lake Chrissie Area is very poor and very unhealthy for stock. Natives would never consent to go there. It is occupied, to some extent, by Europeans. They farm a little with stock, but the country is suited chiefly for trees.

I was for many years in the Republican service. I was associated then with mines, and was Assitant Chief of the Mines Department. I know the Transvaal thoroughly. I have done some farming too.

One more point regarding the Komati. I think it is the finest grazing country in South Africa.

Pretoria, 14th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN.

DAVID WORTH HOOK: Examined.

I am the Sub-Native Commissioner, stationed at Pretoria.

Recently, natives have put up an application to purchase the farm Buffelsdoorn. Some years ago this farm was purchased by the natives belonging to Sjambok's tribe. They now want to purchase a further 700 morgen of the same farm in Area 16.

Chairman.] What attitude does the Government take up?

Mr. Hook.] The Government is prepared to sanction the purchase under certain conditions. The conditions are that a tribal resolution shall be signed and submitted showing that the chief and his councillors and those who have purchased, or are purchasing, agree to pass transfer of the 500 morgen already purchased, and the 700 morgen about to be purchased, in favour of the Minister of Native Affairs in trust for the tribe. The second condition is that the rights of occupation are reserved for those who have actually participated in the purchase and their descendants. The natives have consented to these conditions.

A similar case has arisen in regard to the tribe of Paledi in Area 17. These natives have purchased a 5/9th undivided share of Quarrieslaagte No. 356, which lies within the area. They have also purchased 1,000 morgen of the farm Elandsdoorn No. 225, which lies outside Area 17. As it adjoins Quarrieslaagte which is native-owned and is not in any way likely to prejudice the European owners of Elandsdoorn, it should, in my opinion, be included in Area 17. In this the magistrate concurs.

They have transfer in a most irregular way of this undivided portion of Quarrielaagte and the portion of Elandsdoorn already described by me. These purchases have been subscribed for by the tribe and the farms have been transferred into the name of the chief and several of his followers—about thirty. They were purchased before Act 27 of 1913. That is a form of transfer to which I am opposed. It affords no proper security.

I would suggest that a register be kept by the district officers concerned showing the individual particulars in such purchases as a means of settling any possible disputes that may arise in future.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that Buffelsdrift, Wynandskraal and Boschplaats and other farms belonging to Mr. Meyer, should be excluded from the native area. Would any prejudice accrue to the natives if they were excluded?

Mr. Hook.] The Beaumont Commission took it upon itself to see that ground was reserved for natives in the immediate vicinity of their locations. If these farms are withdrawn, it will certainly prejudice those natives. In recommending these areas district officers wished to avoid the disturbance of native occupation. I think there would be dissatisfaction if these farms were excluded.

I am not in favour of the exclusion of the farms which Mr. Rose-Innes recommends should be excluded.

Chairman.] What would you say about extending Area 16 to the west?

Mr. Hook.] That would bring you up against native feeling which is averse to encroaching upon the rights of natives in adjoining territory and, of course, they are deeply attached to their old tribal ground.

Pretoria, 15th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

AMOS BURNET: Examined by Chairman.

I am General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church, and live in Pretoria. I have lived in the Transvaal for nearly 18 years. I travel considerably throughout the Transvaal, twenty thousand miles last year. I am fairly well acquainted with conditions in the Transvaal, except in the extreme north, though I have been so far as Sibasa.

I wish, first of all, to speak on the character of the proposed native areas which, in my judgment, are wholly insufficient and unsuitable. And, secondly, I should like to say something on the extraordinary position of the natives on the high-veld. I am very much concerned in the south-west, and dealt fully with the case at Potchefstroom before the Western Transvaal Committee. What I said at Potchefstroom obtains, to the same extent, in the neighbouring districts in the west. We have a very large number of natives there who have been completely detribalised, so completely that they have actually lost their language, in many cases, and speak only Dutch. I have recently printed a Church Membership Card for 1918, and so completely have they lost their vernacular that they are clamouring for Dutch Cards. No, these people have no affinity whatever with the people in the proposed native areas. The climate of these areas is altogether incongenial and unsuitable, and if they are compelled to leave the districts where they are now residing, they will have to go to a country of which they know nothing; to people whose language they have lost; into conditions which will put them back for generations, and lower the whole tone of their civilisation. For these natives on the high-veld are our very best natives. They have left behind many customs which have not helped in the development of their lives.

If you take a line from Komati Poort to Mafeking you find, roughly speaking, that the whole of the native areas are north of that line. Well, many thousands of the people of whom I am speaking, are south of that line. In Carolina, Bethal, Ermelo, Standerton, Heidelberg and the Witwatersrand, there is practically no provision at all for these people. There should be an amendment in the Bill in this particular. I know the difficulties. First of all, if you accept the present Schedule, you have to take these people six-hundred miles into country of which they know nothing, many of them into Area No. 5, because the other areas are very small. For many of these people the choice will lie between Areas Nos. 5, 15 and 16. No. 5, as the Committee knows, is very largely impossible. Some people say that one-tenth of that great area is totally unfit for these purposes. But, suppose that half of it is fit. Even so, that reduces the whole provision enormously, because the other areas are so small. If No. 5 were a sort of Transkei, it would be an admirable scheme in point of climate and soil, and you could place tens of thousands of people there. In my judgment, there is no provision at present for the high-veld native, and I think that is the problem before this Committee. I know there are difficulties, but these difficulties have to be faced. If it is really proposed to carry out this measure, if the country sets a value upon it, then the country must be prepared to make sacrifices. If the principle is accepted that there is to be no sort of provision on the high-veld, the whole legislation, in my opinion, falls to the ground. I do not think it can be forced through. I think the Government will feel when it gets the reports of the Committees that the Bill cannot be forced through. But, if some provision is to be made on the high-veld, I think the sting of the Bill will be very largely drawn. There are here and there farms that have been purchased by natives. In the Potchefstroom district there are two or three. My mission has a farm there, and I would suggest that the two be linked up. In Wakkerstroom there is a farm bought by a syndicate of natives—Daggaskraal. Then, west of Ermelo, there is another similar case of a farm bought by natives—Spitzkop. If such areas as these could be made the centre of a native reserve—they could not be very large, farms would have to be expropriated at very great cost but, if they were at all reasonably spacious, it would take away the sting of the measure and cut the ground beneath the feet of those who object. These people would be living and working in a climate and under conditions which they know, but if the whole of that country is to be made impossible, it means that the great majority of our best natives can never, under any circumstances, work for themselves, but must always be labourers and nothing more.

Then, there is the great Heidelberg district. The natives there have been separated from tribal conditions for two or three generations. Some of them have lost their language, and have no affinity with the natives in the north. I do not think that anybody has ever thought it out, what it means to move a thousand or two thousand people from that district. Recently, a thousand natives trekked from Thab 'Nchu to the Tati Concessions and, in the first year, 10 per cent. of them died—because they were moved to a new kind of country, hundreds of miles away from the place where they were brought up. This migration took place after the Act of 1913. It was not so much because of the Act, as

because of the Chief Marocca who had been deposed and wanted to get back his influence by means of this trek. The people died of want and fever, and privation of various sorts. They paid £700 in railway fares. There were four or five thousand of them.

Chairman.] With regard to districts like Wakkerstroom and Ermelo, where, as you say, natives already own land, would you consider that native townships established in close proximity to urban centres would relieve the situation?

Mr. Burnet.] Yes, if they were adequate townships. If there were small native areas it would, at any rate, enable the Government to say that there is some provision. But I do not think such a provision is sufficient. I should prefer a large high-veld area instead of little black islands dotted over the white area, if this Bill were a Segregation Bill. But it is not. It provides only for territorial separation. Perhaps, therefore, there is not the same objection to little black islands.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that a large proportion of the natives on the high-veld come from adjoining territory and that, if they desire to buy or lease land, they might more fittingly be provided for in their own areas. I take it your objection to that is this, that these people have moved along totally different lines. The native on the farm is more individualistic than his brother who is living under tribal conditions, and it would be abhorrent to that native to find himself under the same conditions as he separated himself from many years ago. But take, for instance, the natives who have come from Swaziland. Don't you think that a portion of Swaziland might be set aside for individual tenure, and in that way meet the needs of these advanced natives?

Mr. Burnet.] They have lived here so long that they will not want to go back. On the other hand, I regard every native in the Transvaal as an asset. He should have his home in his proper environment.

Chairman.] Do you think the position would be eased if the tax were removed from the squatter and the labour-tenant? That is to say, that if the tenant wishes to remove from the farm upon which he is living, it will be reasonable to say to him: "you want to change your condition. Well, you can go to the native area and buy or lease land there. Or you can remain in the white area as a labour-tenant, and as long as you remain on satisfactory terms with the owner of the farm, no licence money will be charged."

Mr. Burnet.] Yes, that would ease the position.

Chairman.] Don't you think that if a native is faced with this position that he will not be taxed because he happens to be in a non-native area as a tenant, but if he wishes to move from farm A, and wants to continue to be a tenant, it is reasonable to say to him: "there is an area in which you may do so," but he would not be allowed to make a similar contract with a new farmer.

Mr. Burnet.] That is the whole trouble.

Chairman.] Don't you think that the farmer and the native will make it their business to get on better than some do now?

Mr. Burnet.] Yes, I think they would.

Under the present schedule the position is absolutely impossible. I think the Government has made a deplorable mistake in not simply confining themselves to the prohibition of purchase. It would have been sufficient to prohibit purchase and allow lease. I think, however, that a modification in respect of the licence moneys would suitably relieve the position.

My great point is that the areas are unsuitable and insufficient. I have in mind very largely the high-veld natives. If these licence moneys were entirely withdrawn, the position would be eased and the Bill would be very much more acceptable.

There is one extraordinary clause in the Bill. If a native has his children at home on a holiday he can be brought up as for a crime.

Chairman.] Do you know the Secocoeni area?

Mr. Burnet.] Only that section near the mission station below Secocoeni's location.

Chairman.] You were saying that natives on the high veld had no affinity with natives in the low veld. Have you considered the case of the Ndebele. Mfene has a pretty considerable following scattered over the high veld, and he has applied to us to be allowed to return to the low veld.

Mr. Burnet.] I should regard that as an exceptional case.

Chairman.] Then take the Swazis, who are also low veld natives. Would you consider it a hardship if they were obliged to buy on lease in Swaziland?

Mr. Burnet.] The whole of that area is under tribal rule, except for the concessions, which are permanent. The natives have about a third of the country.

Chairman.] Would it be possible for the Government of Swaziland to set aside areas for the more advanced Swazis who desire to buy or lease land?

Mr. Burnet.] I should like to see it done, but I think it would cause a great deal of trouble; nothing would please me more than to see that done.

Chairman.] Is the whole of Zululand under native occupation?

Mr. Burnet.] I cannot say.

Chairman.] Would it be practicable to set aside in Zululand any area for those Zulus who may desire to live on the individual system?

Mr. Burnet.] No, I don't think so. There is not enough land there at present. To force a native back to tribal conditions would be a quite impossible thing. It would be

a positive crime now to force him back. He is the native who deliberately attached himself to the first Boers and fought against his own people.

Chairman.] These natives who have lost their tongue, are they not a detribalised class who gravitated into the Transvaal from the Free State?

Mr. Burnet.] A number of them did come up in the first trek.

I know Vrededorp. It is a disgrace to the ruling race. I know the Klipspruit location. I protested against the establishment of that location, owing among other things to its distance from Johannesburg. I know the Ndabeni Native Location at Cape Town.

Chairman.] Don't you think that some such scheme might be initiated near Johannesburg?

Mr. Burnet.] There would never have been any trouble about Klipspruit with better transport facilities.

Chairman.] How does that location compare with native townships as to conditions of life and other things?

Mr. Burnet.] The townships are better. Take Evaton, for instance. The people who live at Evaton are not working there for the most part. Their families live there. They feel that they have a little right in the place.

Klipspruit was so objectionable that a number of natives in our church went and established Sophiatown. The conditions in Sophiatown and other native townships are infinitely better than in the locations. Unfortunately there is no form of local government.

I have not thought of a site for a native location near Johannesburg, but there is a suitable site near Turffontein.

Chairman.] Don't you think that if townships were established in close proximity to the Witwatersrand many evils would be overcome which arise out of the present conditions?

Mr. Burnet.] Yes, but it depends upon the train service. At Nancefield the train service is very poor. I think that if there were such a location or native township natives would get their wives and families to settle, and that would be a most desirable thing. Girls would then be obtainable for service.

Chairman.] In your evidence before the Select Committee you suggested a high veld area somewhere near Lake Chrissie?

Mr. Burnet.] I threw out that suggestion in desperation. It was a mere suggestion.

Chairman.] Do you think that if an area could be found approximating in soil and climatic conditions to the high veld, say bordering on the existing proposed native areas, that would relieve the position?

Mr. Burnet.] In addition to that, if native townships on the high veld were provided, and the licences which the Bill seeks to impose on squatters and labour tenants were withdrawn, the position would be greatly eased.

Pretoria, 15th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

CHRISTOFFEL HOFMEYR: Examined by Chairman.

I am a member of the Provincial Council for Zoutpansberg, and a farmer, and live on the farm Marabastad, in the Pietersburg district. I have lived there for 45 years.

I know the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission more or less. I find it difficult, however, to express an opinion upon them. Not only is the question a big one, but we are expecting great changes throughout the world, and it may well be that a measure such as this, costing many thousands of pounds, may be put to nought by later developments. Then again the matter appears to have a political complexion. For these reasons I should prefer to see the law abandoned for the time being. Owing to the political situation I think the legislation should be deferred until more normal times are reached.

Chairman.] You made a proposal before the Beaumont Commission that there should be one large area for the natives and one large area for the whites?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] Yes, several years go. But now I should like to know what are the intentions of the Government and their plans for the natives in the future. General Botha said some time ago that people must get rid of the idea of regarding the native as a servant, and should try to get the poor white as a servant. This was at a meeting several years ago. What, then are the plans of the Government with regard to the natives. As an agriculturist I regard the native from the point of view of an agriculturist, and, so far as my knowledge goes, there are two streams of natives in South Africa. The one is willing and anxious to remain with us, and it is more or less this section that you find among the farmers. The other section, the section which lives to one side, is a section which is hostile to the white people, and which never loses from view the over-

coming of South Africa. As I stated before the Beaumont Commission, a native thinks more of an Englishman than a Boer, but in any case, if he saw a good chance of killing both he would be only too glad to do so. Therefore, the question of handling these natives in the future is of extreme importance. It is not free of difficulty. On the one hand it seems a good plan to give the natives a separate area. But then, will this not give them the opportunity of uniting and organising to do harm? To-day where there are two chiefs we find no harmony between them, even although they speak the same tongue. There is a rivalry between them, but if they were put into a large area they would begin to consider their joint interests. In order to reach a common purpose they would combine, and their various differences would disappear. In view of these considerations is it a sound policy for South Africa to put the natives into one large area? Will it not be a danger to us in the future?

Roughly about 400,000 morgen are scheduled areas at the present time, and it is now proposed to give the natives three and a half millions of morgen in the two districts of Pietersburg and Zoutpansberg. Is it the intention to withdraw all the natives from the white area and remove them to the native area?

Chairman.] No, the position is this. When these areas are definitely fixed by Parliament there will be a native and a non-native area. In the non-native area there will be eight classes of native occupants when this bill becomes law: natives living on farms, in locations, on mission stations; a native who has a lease on a farm which has not yet expired, labour-tenants, old and diseased natives who are exempted from tax, and full-time servants. Now, the Government proposes that the native who owns a farm shall not be disturbed unless it be necessary to expropriate his farm. If the native wishes to sell the farm, he advertises it for three months in the Gazette and places a minimum value upon it. At the end of three months, if no white man wishes to buy the farm, the Governor-General may expropriate it, or the native may be allowed to sell to not more than five other natives.

Mr. Hofmeyr.] Why, then, is the proposed native area so large?

Chairman.] The reason for that is that in the Transvaal you have a proportion of 6 to 1 natives as against whites. On a figure basis, therefore, the native area is by some considered disproportionate. The idea is to provide for the native population and their increase for the next ten years.

You said just now that there are two streams of natives the natives who live among the white farmers and who wish to remain with them, and another class not favourably disposed to white people, who, if placed in a large area, would combine and co-operate and be a perpetual menace to the whites. Do you know anything of the Transkei? There you have a large number of chiefs living together. They have their district councils and a modified form of self-government. They are the most law-abiding natives within the Union. If there had been that danger you speak of, don't you think there would have been an indication of it now in these troublous times?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] Is the Chairman not aware that the native is hostile to the white man?

Chairman.] That is not my experience. The natives on the veld have placed themselves entirely in the hands of the white men. They say: "if you will give us areas which are adequate and suitable, we are quite satisfied. The very natives who you say are most favourably disposed to the white man are those who have levelled the most criticism at this proposed legislation.

Mr. Hofmeyr.] Well, time will show. But ever since the Anglo-Boer War there has been a spirit abroad among the natives which is opposed to the white man. The natives are weak now. They are convinced of their own weakness. They have realised their weakness comparatively recently, but they mean to strengthen themselves for the future.

One of the points I wished to raise is with reference to the tax. Why should I pay for my labour-tenant. Some farmers on the high-veld, even now, are paying the hut tax of their natives, and now there is this further tax. I think it will handicap agriculture very much.

Chairman.] What do you think of the squatter's licence?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] To tell the truth, I have no sympathy with people who let farms to natives. I think it is a good plan to get rid of the squatter and, therefore, I approve of the imposition of this licence money. I do not want to see the labour-tenant entirely untaxed. I should like to see the tax a little higher on natives outside the locations, that is to say, on those who are not employed in agriculture. My reason is this, that the day will come when the mines will be worked out, and the only basis of the country's prosperity will be agriculture. If you have a native on the farm you make him useful to the State, and farm-work does not unfit him for work on the mines. On the other hand, once he has worked on the mines he is no use whatever on a farm. The native who works on a farm becomes an asset to the country. My idea is that if the tax on natives working on farms were taken away, there would be some prospect of the native leaving his area in order to avoid the tax. There is always sufficient for the mines, whereas in parts of the Transvaal, it is a fact that farmers have great difficulty in obtaining labour. As I said just now, there are two streams of natives. One section will not work for the farmer. He is the native for the location and the mines.

Chairman.] Won't you be taxing the mines in favour of the farmer?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] No. I do not think so, but in any case, even if the mines had to pay more, it would not be unfair because the mines are taking out our wealth.

Chairman.] Do you think that the areas should be made larger or smaller?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] I think the areas are too large. Natives work less on their own property than they do upon a farm. Smaller areas would be quite sufficient. I think Area 2 is too large. I do not know that it is necessary to have an area there at all.

Chairman.] Where would you put the natives then?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] They would live among the white people as the country becomes settled, or they could go to Matala's or Malietsie's Locations. South Africa will be too small for all of us in time.

I should like to see Matok's Location removed to the west of the district rather than to the east. Matok's people do not get on with the Knobneuzen.

I find it very difficult to express an opinion at all, and I am still in hopes that the Bill may not go through this Session. It is the most difficult question that has ever had to be decided in South Africa.

I should like to see all the small locations in the white area shifted into the native area. I do not think it is unfair to force the native to work. It is good for him and it is good for the country.

I think the areas should be cut down more. I am not prepared to say how they should be cut down.

In future there will not be a single farm in the country which will be uninhabitable. If any portion of the native area is unfit for natives and could be made habitable for white men, it should be excluded from the native area.

Chairman.] Some witnesses have told us that 50 per cent. of the land in Area 5 is cultivable, others say that it is purely cattle country and cannot be occupied by natives.

Mr. Hofmeyr.] I think it would be a good idea to exclude that portion and make it part of the white area.

Chairman.] Why do you think that this proposed legislation should stand over until after the war?

Mr. Hofmeyr.] We read repeatedly that great events may be expected after the war. That will apply to South Africa too, no doubt. There may be a change here, for instance, a Republic.

KNUT ALEXANDER CARLSON: Examined by Chairman.

I am Conservator of Forests for the Transvaal, and have held that position for the last fourteen months. I wish to make representations with reference to the exclusion of certain forest areas in the Zoutpansberg and Pietersburg districts from the proposed native area. In the Zoutpansberg there are the Entabeni and Tsakoma Reserves. They fall just within the native area recommended by the Beaumont Commission.

Chairman.] Why do you want these reserves excluded?

Mr. Carlson.] I do not quite understand, in the first place, what object there would be in including them.

Chairman.] The object is that these forest areas are adjacent to very largely occupied native areas within the district. Speaking from memory, I believe that certain of these forests are regarded by the natives as sacred. Moreover, I believe an understanding was come to between your department and the Department of Native Affairs, that any forest areas falling within areas controlled by Sub-Native Commissioners should receive some attention from the Sub-Native Commissioners with a view to preventing destruction by natives.

Mr. Carlson.] That is, of course, one of the main objects of the Forest Department. It is in order to prevent destruction that we want the forests excluded from the native area. The treatment of forests is a very technical matter. If these forests fell into the native area, so far from there being any technical control, I do not see that there would be any control at all, other than a purely nominal one.

Chairman.] Suppose you have regulations applicable to these areas, and a forest officer who can exercise some control just as he would do over forests falling into the non-native area. If the argument holds good that because a forest area happens to fall into a native area you are deprived of its technical control, surely the same will apply to forests in the non-native area.

Mr. Carlson.] No, because forests in the non-native area are subject to the control of my Department, whereas in the native area they would be subject to dual control.

Chairman.] Now would your position be interfered with so far as control is concerned by the inclusion of these forests within the native area?

Mr. Carlson.] It appears to me that the reservation of certain areas for natives is more or less of a special character, and involves the reservation of something special for the natives alone. Now forests are not a matter of purely racial interest. They are of national interest for the whole of the Union. By leaving them in the non-native area the forests would be looked upon as a public institution. In the native area they would be regarded as something special reserved for the natives.

Chairman.] But does not the same argument apply if the forests were in the non-native area? If, as you say, it is a national question, surely it does not much matter

whether they fall into the native or non-native area. Suppose the forests were right inside the area.

Mr. Carlson.] I am dealing only with those which are on the border of the area.

Chairman.] But suppose the forests were surrounded by native area. Take the native territories in the Transkei. There you have many instances of small forest areas surrounded by natives. The same thing might apply here.

Mr. Carlson.] I think that if the Forestry Law were reserved by the Schedule to the Bill a great many of our objections would disappear. But apart from that I think it would assist our department a great deal, from the point of view of the mental attitude of the natives if these forest areas were excluded. In the Pietersburg district there are forests called Legat and Forest Reserve, which we wanted excluded for the same reasons as I have given with respect to the Zoutpansberg reserves.

Chairman.] What sort of timber is there in the Tsakoma and Entabeni Reserves?

Mr. Carlson.] Ordinary native timber, which is valuable. There may not be a very great amount of timber, as trees have been rooted out. The main object is to preserve and rehabilitate. The destruction occurred in the early days of the war. Since then the administration of forests has been pretty well protected.

Chairman.] What is the system of control now?

Mr. Carlson.] We have a district forest officer at Haenertsburg, who is in charge of the North Eastern Transvaal, and then we have foresters stationed at various points. At present many of them are away on active service, and we have temporary men in charge.

Chairman.] Has not your department asked Sub-Native Commissioners to co-operate with them in their control?

Mr. Carlson.] Yes, and they have given great assistance. We naturally look to the Commissioners to assist us in dealing with the native. But they cannot assist of course in the technical control of the forests, or so far as patrolling is concerned. If there are disputes then we go to the Sub-Native Commissioner and get his assistance.

We have general forest regulations under the Act.

Chairman.] How would these operate if the forests fell into the native area?

Mr. Carlson.] I assume in the same way. As things are at present, the Act being not included in Schedule 2, I think it is possible for the Governor-General to make regulations. As it is a national matter I think it desirable that that power should reside in the Forest Department under the Forest Act.

Chairman.] Is the protection of these forests at the present time entirely satisfactory?

Mr. Carlson.] I should not say that.

Chairman.] How would you improve the position, by excluding the forest reserves from the native areas.

Mr. Carlson.] I don't know, except in the way of disabusing the native of the idea that those forests are specially for his use and nobody else's. We continually find that that idea prevails.

I do not say there has been very little destruction since this administration. I say there has been control, but I do not say that control has been entirely effective. It may be that destruction has considerably diminished. On my first visit to the Entabeni area about a year ago I was horrified to see the condition of those forests—due to fire. There are natives living in forest areas now. They are there with our consent. I should like to see them out of it altogether.

When I saw this area I thought that it was the one situation in the Transvaal which seemed to me suitable for poor white settlement preferably to having the native.

Chairman.] Would there be any objection to promoting afforestation in native areas for the benefit of the native?

Mr. Carlson.] No.

Chairman.] Why, then, should those reserves not be the nucleus of such a scheme?

Mr. Carlson.] No, the area in question is eminently suited to growing valuable timber on a large scale, and it is also required for the conservation of the moisture of several important streams which have their source in that region. By a proper afforestation system under long rotation that can be affected very much better than on a short rotation of crops.

Chairman.] Conservation would only directly affect the natives, because of the stream running through the area?

Mr. Carlson.] If you afforest that area for native use you grow small material under short rotation crops, which is not conducive to consistent stream flow. You want to create a dense forest of vast timber which will be uncut for a long period in order to conserve moisture.

Chairman.] It does not follow that you are debarred from doing exactly what you like with your timber. This is not an economic separation. It is territorial separation. You can apply that timber to whatever purpose you like. While you have got these important timbers they can be used for the benefit of the white people of the country. On the other hand, if you think it would be a sound thing to go in for timber which would be useful to the native, there would be no reason for not doing so.

Mr. Carlson.] My point is this, that as a national matter you want to lift it out of the racial division of areas, and I suggest that you do that by letting forest reserves so far as possible fall into the non-native area.

Chairman.] Does it not then also become a racial division?

Mr. Carlson.] What I am speaking of is the native trend of mind which is different to the European attitude. The native might fall into the habit of thinking that the forest is particularly his own because it happens to fall into the native area.

Pretoria, 16th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

HENRY WALTER ADAMS: Examined by Chairman.

I am an attorney acting for Chief April Shongwane, of the Bathlaleroa Tribe, who lives on farm Pic van Teneriffe, in the Waterberg district. It is a definitely recognised Government tribe. I represent both the chief and the tribe.

The farm Pic van Teneriffe is owned communally by the tribe. Patatenvlei and Vienvlei adjoining are Government farms occupied by these natives since time immemorial. I have marked in pencil on the map the farms occupied by this tribe. To the north of Pic van Teneriffe there is a block of farms on both sides of the Palala, viz.: Quebec, Olifantsdrift, Mountjoy, Martinique, Beaufort, Nekar, Johannesburg, Abbottspoort, Trent, St. Helena, Villa Nova, Otherworld, Arnhem, Good Nature, and Stilestroom. To the south there are the following farms, viz.: Nyverheid, Orgeldrift, Buffelskraal, Bouwlust, Spektakel, Richmond, and Colesberg, Kaapsvlakte, and Vischgat.

At present the tribe consists of more than 1,300 head, who pay taxes to the Government. They occupy on lease all the farms abovementioned. Of these farms the only ones that fall into Native Area 1 are Olifantsdrift 1021, Martinique 1027, and Nekar 1025. The farms on the right bank of the river are company farms. Eight of the farms in all belong to companies, and have been occupied by the natives since time immemorial. Quebec, Beaufort, and Mountjoy on the left bank are also company farms.

In addition to the above farms the natives have also until recently occupied the farms Clermont, Vienvlei, Goa, Cornwall, and Patatenvlei from time immemorial, but these are Government farms, and the Lands Department has given the tribe notice to quit the farms as they are required for European settlement. This is one of the points upon which I wish to make representations. The natives say that since time immemorial they have looked upon these farms as their property, and that in the time of the South African Republic they did not even pay a recognition fee, and that it was only after the war that the British Government called upon them to pay occupation fees for these farms. That was the first intimation they had that the property was not their own, and that it was Government property. At that time they not only occupied these farms, but a lot of other Government farms. It was then that they took steps to acquire the farm Pic van Teneriffe, which was transferred to them in 1911. I acted for the natives in connection with the transfer, but the Government would not at first recognise them as a tribe. The Minister of Native Affairs stated that they were simply natives living together without tribal recognition. I then proceeded to make an application to Court, with the object of forcing the Government to recognise these people as a tribe, but the case never came into court, because the Government then handed us a certificate recognising these people as a tribe. On the strength of this certificate transfer was passed, and from that day to this they have been looked upon as a tribe. The only way to convince the Government was by drawing up a history of the tribe, which I put in as Annexure A. I should like to draw attention to the following sections in that annexure, viz., sections 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, and 27, which have some little bearing upon the case. With regard to 11, the Paholili Kop referred to is on the farm Buffelskraal No. 401, presently occupied by the tribe. They regard it as a sacred place. Buffelskraal was originally the centre of the tribe. The Kop was the ancestral graveyard. It was on the strength of this history that the Government gave us the certificate of recognition.

The Government have been getting £300 to £100 a year occupation fees from these five farms, the fee being £1 per ploughing head. When the tribe acquired Pic van Teneriffe it shifted its kraal from Buffelskraal to Pic van Teneriffe, which is now the Hoofdstad of the tribe, where the chief resides.

About two years ago the tribe got notice to quit the five Government farms referred to, but did not treat the notice seriously, and left matters as they were until September of last year, when they received final notice to quit. They then consulted me, and I wrote letters B and C, which I hand in. The Secretary for native Affairs told me the matter was out of his hands. I saw the Secretary for Lands, and tried to arrange an interview with the Minister, but I got a letter from his Secretary, which I put in as Annexure D. I then wrote Annexure E. to the Secretary for Native Affairs. To that I got a reply referring me to you. I then advised the natives to get leases of the surrounding farms, and they have had promises, which I am submitting to Native Affairs. The Secretary cannot hold out much hope. He thinks he may get it for a year.

If you take away these five Government farms you cut these natives' occupation in two. Our point is that these farms marked in pencil should be included in the native area, and that Area No. 1 should be extended southwards to include an area to be allocated to this particular tribe.

The farms on both sides of the Palala are grazing farms. They are not considered to be suitable for cultivation. If you force the natives into Area 1 you cannot drive them away from Pic van Teneriffe. In the absence of such action the tribe will still remain on the company farms during the operation of any agreement entered into before 1913.

Chairman.] Whether in the absence of any agreement they will be allowed to remain where they are depends, of course, upon residence.

Mr. Adams.] They actually reside on three farms only, viz., Pic van Teneriffe, Buffelskraal, and Vischgat.

The reason why they wish to retain these Government farms is that they are arable and productive. They water their cattle in the Palala. That is their only source of water supply. The five Government farms required for white settlement are extremely hot, and not at all suitable for white people.

Chairman.] Are there any white people living in that area now?

Mr. Adams.] Yes, on the farms Johannesburg and Shangaanstad, but only for the winter grazing.

The distance of Native Area 1 from Pic van Teneriffe is about fifteen miles—half a day's walk, which is most inconvenient. The natives say the area is very "ugly." There are only three good farms, Lily, Beauty, and Bosscheidisch, which have been acquired by Chief Silica. The remaining farms are only good for grazing in the summer.

None of the company farms I have referred to are arable. The only arable farms are the Government farms, and the farms Spektakel, Tolesberg, Richmond, Nyverheid, and Bouwlust, also Schaapsvlakte, and Vischgat. The other farms to the north of Pic van Teneriffe are all grazing farms.

Area 1 is only good for grazing in summer, not in winter. There is no water and no grass. It is full of stones, and the soil is not good. It is a red soil, but not productive. The place teems with wild ants, which eat up any grass left over in winter, and swarms of "vinks" and other birds which eat up all the corn. It is very thickly wooded. A lot of clearing would be necessary before the ground could be ploughed. The natives complain bitterly about these flocks of birds.

The Palala is, I think, a perennial stream. I do not know what the volume of water would be. (After consultation with his clients witness states there is not water in the river all the year round. The river dries up in the winter, except for little pools in the river-bed).

The natives are very much opposed to Area 1, which they say is worthless ground, and of no use to them.

Pic van Teneriffe is about 900 morgen in extent, about half of it can be ploughed. The rest is stony.

These natives have a large quantity of stock, about 3,000 head, and a considerable amount of small stock as well.

In conclusion, they have asked me to state that Area 1 is not suitable or adequate, and that the area should be extended southwards to include their occupation, or else that parate area be created around Pic van Teneriffe.

Pretoria, 17th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

JOACHIM JOHANNES PRINSLOO: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and live on the farm Zorgvliet, near Bronkhorstspruit. I wish to give evidence with regard to the proposed native areas. I want to urge that a line be drawn which shall not be impossible for the white people. All the farms along the Olifants and the Elands Rivers are indispensable to the white people. They must be cut out of the native area and reserved for the white people—for our future generations.

Chairman.] What is your proposal for a native area for the district?

Mr. Prinsloo.] The thing is that we must have the farms along the Elands River.

Commandant Opperman.] What farms?

Mr. Prinsloo.] The whole block between the Elands and Olifants Rivers should be reserved for the whites.

Chairman.] Have you a farm there?

Mr. Prinsloo.] Yes, Elandsdrift.

Chairman.] Where would you put Poledi's people?

Mr. Prinsloo.] I should have a small black island there for Paledi's people.

Chairman.] Where will they get water?

Mr. Prinsloo.] He has enough water where he is. I don't want him removed from his Stad.

Chairman.] Are there any white people living on that piece which you want cut off from the Elands to the Olifants?

Mr. Prinsloo.] There are a few Europeans, but it is occupied by natives chiefly at the present time. The point is that it is ground which in the future will be absolutely necessary to us. The ground along the river is good. There are parts which are poor, for instance, what is known as the Merrie Hoog Veld.

Chairman.] If this ground between the rivers is so good, why is it that it has not yet been occupied by white people?

Mr. Prinsloo.] Because the time is not ripe. I am looking to the future. The Olifants River is an ideal place for agriculture. Millions of bags of wheat can be grown there—not at present, but in the future.

I should cut out a portion for the natives above the proposed area.

Chairman.] But that is in the Springbok Flats.

Mr. Prinsloo.] There is good ground along the Olifants River. A large portion of the Olifants River is in the proposed native area. I think that if you could provide the natives with ground somewhere else a little away from the river it would be much better.

Chairman.] But then you see you cut right through the area. That is very difficult.

Mr. Prinsloo.] Yes, it is difficult. But these farms from the Elands River downwards were our forefathers' farms. The Voortrekkers were the pioneers there.

Chairman.] Can irrigation schemes be carried out on the Elands' River?

Mr. Prinsloo.] Yes, I am quite sure there can.

Chairman.] It is said by the Director of Irrigation that there are no possible irrigation schemes there.

Mr. Prinsloo.] I am sure there are.

Commandant Opperman.] If he says that he cannot have been there.

Chairman.] Mr. Liebenberg, too, says that there are no schemes along the Elands River within the area.

Commandant Opperman.] All the farms along the Elands River up to Allemansdrift from Toitskraal can be placed under irrigation. Anyone who says that there are no irrigation schemes there can never have been there.

Mr. Prinsloo.] I think it is nonsense to say that there can be no irrigation schemes there.

GUY DUDLEY WHEELWRIGHT: Examined by Chairman.

I am Sub-Native Commissioner for the Barberton district, and have occupied that position for fourteen years. Before that, from 1896 to 1902 I was in the Zululand Administration.

I am thoroughly acquainted with local conditions in the Barberton district.

The native population of the Barberton district is 45,000 souls, of whom 80 per cent. are still living under tribal rule, and under tribal conditions. The tribes are Swazi and Shangaan, but principally Swazi.

Chairman.] Do they live mostly on Government ground or on private farms?

Mr. Wheelwright.] They are about equally divided.

Chairman.] How long have the Swazis been in the Barberton district.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I should say anything up to a hundred years. You have three generations in the case of Mbudula.

Chairman.] Would that be an isolated case or does it apply generally to the Swazis in your district?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It applies generally.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the white man preceded these people in the Barberton district?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, that is not so. With regard to the Chief Mbudula I should like to add that he was the son of Lomahasha, after whom that portion of the district is named. Mbudula himself also lived in that portion of the district.

Chairman.] Did Lomahasha come from Swaziland?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It is difficult to say. It was in Chaka's time that these natives found themselves there. These natives are all of Zulu descent. They found their way from parts of Zululand. They called themselves Swazis after Mswazi, who eventually came into the Barberton district and occupied it. He placed three of his widows there, Nyanda, Nomgeisa, and Nomagadhlena as chieftainesses, and they have pretty well controlled the district ever since. Nyanda is still alive.

Chairman.] What I should like to have perfectly clear is this. Though they claim to be Swazis now, were they originally Zulus?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Their older people were descendants of Zulus. They came in, some of them, straight from Zululand. Latterly, fifty years ago or more, some of the chiefs came from Swaziland and settled in the Barberton district under the rule of these three

women. The chief who placed the women there came from Swaziland. Mswazi, as far as I can gather, was a chief of the Zulus. His parents came from Swaziland.

Chairman.] May I suggest that perhaps it was arranged in this way? This chief settled these women there and emigrants from Zululand accepted them as their chieftainesses.

Mr. Wheelwright.] A portion of them did, but there were already natives there before Mswazi placed these women there.

Chairman.] Where do they live chiefly?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Along the Komati and the Crocodile, and in the Barberton Valley.

Chairman.] What has become of the natives who lived in the Barberton Valley?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Quite a number are living there still, on Moodie's property and elsewhere.

Chairman.] So, from the coming in of these original people the Swazis have been gradually filtering in and living under these people?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, but there has been no marked influx of Swazis since I have been there. Portion of Swaziland was, under the Boer regime, part of the Barberton district.

Chairman.] When did the Shangaans come in?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Well, speaking from my own knowledge, the Shangaans have been there for the last fourteen or fifteen years. They live chiefly on the Crocodile, but there are a number on the Komati. They live under tribal conditions.

Chairman.] Do they recognise the Swazi chiefs?

Mr. Wheelwright.] There are two or three Shangaan Chiefs who have settled under Swazi Chiefs, and who recognise their chieftainship. The majority of the Shangaans recognise Swazi Chiefs.

Chairman.] Where do they come from?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Some of the Hoye and the Mjajane were born in the Barberton district.

Chairman.] Some of the European witnesses at Barberton have suggested that these natives who, you say, have lived there for generations, have been there only a short time.

Mr. Wheelwright.] That is incorrect.

Chairman.] You know that white witnesses have suggested that Area 19 should be excluded from the native area, and that the natives should be provided for somewhere else between the Crocodile and Sabi Rivers. Captain Elphick went so far as to suggest Sections E. and F., but that has been repudiated by the public. Mr. Hall did not go so far as that. He took the whole of Section F. and portion of E. What do you think about that suggestion?

Mr. Wheelwright.] To my mind it is altogether unsuited in every way for native settlement. It is true that there are natives there at the present time, but to attempt closer settlement or irrigation is impossible. The natives are working the gullies there at the present time, but as soon as that ground is played out there will be no place to settle them. It is alright for white settlement. It is more suitable in every way for white settlement than for native.

Chairman.] It struck us when we went over a portion of Section E. that there were most excellent opportunities for native settlement. For instance, in those little valleys with their little streams. We thought it most excellent country and healthy.

Mr. Wheelwright.] White River itself may be healthy, but lower down the conditions are the same as on the Komati.

Chairman.] We have been told by the Director of Irrigation that Sections E. and F. are certainly not so well suited to European settlement as Area 19.

Mr. Wheelwright.] That is so. Our duty was to provide for the natives in the best way, and that was the ground which suggested itself to the magistrate and myself. I think that whatever view you might take of the use that white people might make of that ground, there is no doubt that for native settlement there are no difficulties in the way, and you would provide the natives with excellent ground. We have never tried to put it to anybody that that ground was unsuitable for Europeans, but I do think that to ask white men to go down there and cut their own water-races is impracticable.

Chairman.] We still have an open mind on this point. Our idea is to find a solution which will be acceptable to both black and white, and, naturally we have to rely on local evidence and on inspection. Don't you think that for the purpose of native administration, and in order to secure suitable sites for Government officers who may be stationed in a native area, that the alternative area is the better?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Away from the White River the country is just as unhealthy and malarious as Area 19. You might perhaps be considering the official but not the native. The White River is middle veld, and that extends south to the River, but it is malarious. There are 14,000 natives in Area 19, and 1,600 in Area 18—Swazis and Shangaans.

Chairman.] Are any of the farms in Area 19 beneficially occupied?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, three of them, worked by Kirk, Globe, and Herald Bros.

Chairman.] What number of natives are living in Sections E and F?

Mr. Wheelwright.] In Section E, outside the Game Reserve, 2,000; in Section F, outside the Game Reserve, 3,742, and in both Sections but within the Game Reserve, 1,875.

[*Chairman* reads Captain Elphick's evidence as to the suitability of Sections E and F for native settlement, and also as to the original settlement by the natives of that area.]

Mr. Wheelwright.] I say that the natives can only plough in the small gullies.

Chairman.] Do you think the natives in Area 19 are sufficiently advanced to avail themselves of and make the best economic use of any irrigated land in Area 19?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I do not think there are any natives outside the Cape who could avail themselves of irrigation schemes. The natives in my district require a great deal of coaching before they could make use of irrigation. I must admit that they are not sufficiently advanced, but, Mr. Chairman, we are not speaking of to-day. I think that by means of education and force of example the natives within the next 25 years might make use of irrigation. That is one of the reasons why I think the area should be retained for the natives. Furthermore, the natives have been there for generations, and I think it in their best interests that that area should be retained as a native area. It is free from the difficulties which confront most of the suggested areas. To take over that ground Government would have to buy nobody out, you would be interfering with no white people. You would not be depriving any white people at all of any existing rights. I urge that as a reason why that area should be retained as a native area. These were things we were told to bear in mind in making our recommendations, and I have borne them in mind. In the White River Area there are something like a hundred men who would have to be compensated. These hundred men I refer to live, for the most part, in Section E. Forty-eight is the correct number, but there are a number of others who are living with settlers there. These people are living on the lots granted to them away from the White River Settlement. These lots are Government ground, and are held under Crown land leases. The settlers go in chiefly for stock-raising and mealie-planting.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that very few of these people seriously farm.

Mr. Wheelwright.] Some of them are of the bywoner class, but there are others who are quite capable of running their farms as well as most men in the district.

Chairman.] We fully appreciate your reasons for recommending Area 19 to the Beaumont Commission, but there is one point which we would like you to consider. Don't you think that the great possibilities of the area would a great deal outweigh the disturbance of white people in Sections E and F?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I want to hold out on that point. We are not looking at to-day. We are looking to the future and we hope that the native will advance. We must see that he is going forward, and in time to come he will want this ground, and he will be able to make use of it when he has been taught the value of irrigation.

Chairman.] As a native administrator of some experience, do you not think that, so far as concerns administration and the natives, matters would be considerably facilitated if the areas were more compact instead of being spread over the Transvaal?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, undoubtedly.

Chairman.] Would there be any chance of the natives outside of Area 19 being content to settle up here in the Lydenburg district between the railway and the Berg?

Mr. Wheelwright.] The natives from Section E having been used to Crown land would prefer to go there if driven to it if, for instance, it were declared a native area. Section E is similar to Area 19. It is more deadly. You get strips of arable land. The natives do not cultivate on a large scale in Area 19. They use the hoe chiefly—worked by women. You must remember that these natives have never felt justified in carrying out any irrigation scheme, because they have not had security of tenure.

Chairman.] Suppose they did have security of tenure, could you undertake an irrigation scheme?

Mr. Wheelwright.] If the Government assisted them, undoubtedly they would be able to make use of an irrigation scheme.

Since your visit to Barberton I have had at least a thousand natives who have asked: "When is this matter going to be settled, because we want a place within the area.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that some covenant exists between the late South African Republican Government and certain native chiefs in that area that either they would not be disturbed, or that a location would be granted to them. Have the natives ever made such a statement to you?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Not that I can remember.

Chairman.] We have it in the evidence of Mr. Forbes that Abel Erasmus evicted a number of natives from that area.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I know nothing of that.

Chairman.] This is Mr. Forbes' evidence. (Reads it).

Mr. Wheelwright.] That is a fair account of it. It is true there was trouble with Mkonjwase's people. Abel Erasmus went there and there was a small fight. Mkonjwase crossed into Portuguese East Africa with a portion of her followers. A great part of her tribe remained in the district. Mkonjwase made repeated applications to be allowed to return, which were considered by the late Republican Government, but nothing was definitely decided. Immediately after Peace in Sir Godfrey Lagden's time, this woman was met by him at Komati Poort, and on her representations to him she was allowed to return to the Barberton district with her followers. She settled then in Area 19.

Chairman.] Do you know why, if the natives in that area had these legitimate claims, no representation was made to the Hogge Commission with a view to a location being established in the Barberton district?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I did not give evidence before that commission.

Chairman.] What is the form of occupation of the natives living in the Barberton district outside the proposed areas?

Mr. Wheelwright.] The greater number of them are rent-paying, mostly on company farms.

Chairman.] Are there any company farms in Section F?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Only one, Burgershall. There are none in Section E. There is Crown land in Section E—plenty of it.

Chairman.] What number of labour-tenants are there in the district.

Mr. Wheelwright.] I make it 1,500 male adults. I cannot say off-hand how many rent-paying squatters outside Area 18 and 19.

Chairman.] Is there any demand for further native labour?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, but I do not admit that there is any shortage.

Chairman.] Is the form of labour-tenancy popular with the natives?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, not the three month's system. They would prefer to pay rent and receive a wage. Farmers, however, are not in a position to pay a wage.

Chairman.] What would happen to the natives of your district in the event of their not being able to meet the liability of a rent-paying squatter? Do you think the majority would meet that liability?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, I do not. I am opposed to the incidence of this license money, because it will recoil on the native.

Chairman.] You think that no taxation of that kind should be imposed upon the owner of the farm in respect of the native tenant?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, but if the native wishes to change he should be given the option of going into the native area or becoming a servant. I feel that things should be allowed to go on as they are until the tenure is broken by one or the other, and that then you should allow the native to go into the native area or on to a private farm. I am not in favour of the 10s. tax on labour-tenants either. The effect would be either to drive the native into servile conditions or out of the district altogether.

Chairman.] Where would they go?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think a great number would make for Swaziland. There are considerable native areas in Swaziland.

Chairman.] Is then the position in Swaziland, that any native who comes in there must accept the rule of a chief, or is it possible for individual natives to live individually?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think that for many years to come they must be subservient to the Queen—not necessarily so far as land questions are concerned in the Concessions, but in the native areas he would have to be subservient to the chief or Induna in the area. No doubt it would be very irksome to any one accustomed to individual tenure to have to live under tribal conditions.

Chairman.] Every native we lose from the Transvaal is a loss economically, is he not?

Mr. Wheelwright.] Yes, we need his labour.

Chairman.] What effect would it have on the labour-supply if the Swazis left your district. Would they still come out to work for the farmers?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No, they would go to the industrial centres. The farmer who has natives on his farm should realise that they are an asset and that the supply should be conserved. I know of a case where a farmer who, on taking possession of his farm, found a number of boys there, and through want of tact lost them all, and cannot get any other labour. You generally find that it is that sort of individual who says we have no native labour in the district.

Chairman.] In your experience, is there any tendency on the part of the individual farmer to keep more boys on his farm than are actually necessary for his farming operations? It has been put to us in evidence at Ermelo that one farmer has a whole crowd of natives living on his farm and works a quarter of them, while the adjoining farmer has less than half, and works them to the best advantage. Naturally, discontent is caused because the neighbouring farmer sits over a large number of natives, and these natives will not move to another farm where the conditions are not so easy. Does that occur in your district?

Mr. Wheelwright.] It has occurred in one or two instances. There is a waste of labour on a lot of these farms. If they paid the natives a wage, the natives would contract for ten months in the year. The waste of labour will be considerably corrected by the local committees which will be appointed to consider applications for labour-tenants and squatters.

The rainfall in Sections E and F is from 17 to 22 inches. I cannot say exactly what the altitude is, but it is not 5,000 feet.

Chairman.] You know Logogotu, do you not? Is it true to say that that is the genesis of the Shangaans in the Transvaal?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I have never been able to trace that. In the same way the Three Sisters are said to be the home of the Boye. I do not know how far the Shangaans can

trace their history back. They are an off-shoot of the Zulu. Their ancestors were driven out of Zululand by Chaka.

Chairman.] We were told that there are traces of a very ancient native settlement to the north of your district?

Mr. Wheelwright.] That is so. You can go through the whole of the Barberton district and find signs of old native settlements. Barberton was occupied by Basutos right down to the Swaziland border, in the Steynsdorp area. They were driven back into Lydenburg by Mswazi's forces. You can still see their stone kraals and that sort of thing..

Chairman.] Are we to understand that no portion of Sections E and F falling into the Game Reserve are as good agriculturally as Area 19?

Mr. Wheelwright.] No. I think it is very poor from the point of view of agriculture.

Chairman.] What proportion of Section F. is arable?

Mr. Wheelwright. I think 25 per cent. would be a liberal estimate. It is about the same in Section E. It is good grazing country. Broadly speaking, the natives are pastoral rather than agricultural. They own a large number of cattle. There is undoubtedly a vast improvement in native methods of agriculture, but their wealth at the present moment lies in cattle. I do not suppose there are more than a dozen natives in the whole district who plant more than enough for their own consumption.

There is no tendency towards any industrial development.

Chairman.] Is the Logies River perennial?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I have never known it dry. The Pretorius River you cannot rely upon. It flows in the rainy season. During winter there is some water. The country between the two rivers is dry, sandy soil. Between the Pretorius and the Sabi, the nature of the soil is similar except on the banks of the Sabi, where it is level and better.

Chairman.] How do the conditions between the Logies and Sabi Rivers compare with the area between the railway line and the Berg in the Lydenburg district?

Mr. Wheelwright.] I think the soil in the latter is very much better than any portion of the area east of the Logies. In Section F. the soil is good, also in Section E. Sections E. and F. in the Game Reserve, but west of the Logies, is also good soil. The two sections are divided into lots already. Why the Game Reserve was ever extended beyond the Logies River is a matter that I cannot understand. Between the Logies River and the new boundary of the Game Reserve the ground is good.

JOHANNES PETRUS MEYER: Examined by Chairman.

I live in Pretoria. I wish to give evidence with regard to the areas between the Pienaars and Aapies Rivers. I think that the line should either be taken along the railway line or, on the other hand, that all the farms along the Aapies River should be cut out. It should follow the railway line up to Pienaars River Station, and thence along the river to its junction with the Aapies.

Chairman.] Whose farms are those on the eastern side of the Aapies?

Mr. Meyer.] They belong chiefly to natives, but some belong to white people. The point is that I want a natural line which will give both black and white access to the river. Most of the people right away from Pienaars River up to Warmbaths Farm on the right-hand side of the railway, and the natives on the left. Vaalboschbult belongs to Pretorius, Klipplaatdrift to several persons, Wolvehuiskraal to me and the Strydoms and Zaagkuildrift to Strydom. These farms are not occupied.

The trouble about the present proposed line is that it runs right through the middle of the grazing veld.

By Mr. Boltman.] The Pienaars River divides the farms into portions which are owned by different persons. If you follow the Pienaars River from the railway station to where it joins the eastern boundary of Buffelsdrift, and thence to the Waterberg boundary—that is what I suggest. Either that, or cut out altogether the whole block between the Aapies and the Pienaars.

By Commandant Opperman.] I do not know the area from the Zoutpan westwards very well. I know that it is turfy, that is all.

By the Chairman.] If the white people got good prices for the farms between the present proposed line and the Waterberg boundary; they could get other good land for their purposes in the Waterberg district.

Pretoria, 18th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

Examined: Messrs. the Revd. Charles Boyd Hamilton, Walter Francis Hill, Frederick Bridgman, Samuel Emmanuel Bovet—Delegates of the Transvaal Missionary Association.

Mr. Hamilton.] I would ask that Father Hill be allowed to read a statement which he has prepared. We have discussed the bill repeatedly. We gave evidence as an association before the Beaumont Commission, and were extremely disappointed with the allocation of native areas, which we consider to be quite inadequate. We recommended to the Government a Land Commission such as this. Father Hill has already given evidence before the Select Committee, and also before the Western Land Committee of the Transvaal. I should like to say that, while we are resident in Johannesburg, we are superintending mission work scattered over the whole of the Transvaal. That gives us a certain knowledge of rural conditions and of native life. We have asked our members in rural districts to give evidence whenever you have visited their respective centres; so that the evidence which we submit to-day is more on general lines with a view to showing the need, which we consider exists for giving the natives greater and better accommodation. I shall ask Father Hill to read his statement.

Father Hill.] The Government having, primarily for the good of the European population of the Union, decided upon a policy of separate areas for white and native occupation, can only justify such a policy by a generous treatment of the native people in the matter of areas.

In the evidence given before the Beaumont Commission and in the published evidence given before the Select Committee, we can find very little sign of a willingness on the part of the European population to make any sacrifice for the carrying out of this policy.

The impression which most of the European evidence leaves on the mind is that the European desires to set aside as little land as possible for native occupation, and that in the most unhealthy and most unfertile parts of the Transvaal, and that the provision of cheap labour in the form of an unlimited number of nomadic labour-tenants is of far greater importance than a just settlement of this great question.

We see very little evidence of a broad and generous view of this question.

Dislike of the principle of separation is very general among the natives, especially among those who have lived for many years in urban areas and on the farms, and unless adequate areas are provided for both tribal and individual occupation, it seems to us that the Government by going on with this bill will only perpetuate a grievance in the native mind.

With regard to the proposed native areas, we would urge upon the Government the advisability of not fixing the boundaries of these areas for all time, but of leaving it open to Parliament, should occasion arise, to enlarge or alter them.

It is extremely difficult to know until the Act has been in operation some time the number of natives who must be accommodated in these areas.

In Appendix IV, p. 7, of the Beaumont Report, column 6, it will be seen that 651,191 natives were in 1911 occupying land not occupied by Europeans, and that land is said to consist of 5,080,818 morgen.

The amount of land provided by the Beaumont Commission is only 6,108,120 morgen.

These two figures need to be brought together for comparison rather than the figures tabulated on p. 45 of the report.

We judge from published evidence and from some knowledge of parts of the greater areas that large portions of the Beaumont Areas are quite uninhabitable, *e.g.*, Zoutpansberg district and farms to the east of the Sekukuniland Reserve. We should probably be quite safe in saying that 2,000,000 out of the 6,108,120 morgen are incapable of carrying natives.

This leaves 4,108,120 morgen of habitable ground, which is about 1,000,000 morgen less than land at present occupied by natives and not by Europeans.

We reckon that 800,000 of the rural population will have to be accommodated in native areas by the time the provisions of the bill are carried out. This works out at 5 morgen per unit.

But an enormous increase of population is taking place and the 800,000 in the areas will have increased by 200,000 in 1921, and by 310,000 in ten years from to-day.

And the problem will be in 1928 to find room for 1,110,000 people in 1,108,120 morgen of habitable ground.

And, in addition to this, a certain proportion of the children of labour-tenants and servants in non-native areas will be seeking to buy land and settle within the native areas. Sir William Beaumont in his Minute, p. 1, par. 27, says: "It has to be borne in mind that finality is aimed at, *i.e.*, that the lands set apart for the natives shall be reasonably

sufficient, not only for their present requirements, but for all time, so that future readjustments of land areas may not be necessary."

We consider that this finality is impossible so far as the Transvaal is concerned.

With regard to the Zoutpansberg Area No. 5, we hope that this Committee will recommend the inclusion of the farms privately owned but occupied by natives mentioned in Mr. Stubbs' Report to the Beaumont Commission, *i.e.*, the farms between the Swiss Mission Stations and the range of hills north-east of Louis Trichardt.

If these farms cannot for any reason be scheduled as reserve now, we made the suggestion to the Select Committee that the natives on such farms as these might be allowed to remain as squatters paying a fair rent fixed by Government and with a measure of fixity of tenure.

The Pietersburg Areas leave out some extensive native locations like Legalie's, Mamabulo's, and Molepo's. Cannot an area be formed including these locations?

Again, there is the Maraba tribe which we think has been rather badly treated. The portion of the tribe at Mashishana has been left outside the Beaumont Area, and the other portion of the tribe under Solomon Maraba, which has been moved about first to Driefontein, and then to Langsberghoek, are also outside the native area. They would not object to move if they could be placed in what they call their own country in the neighbourhood Marabastad.

Then there is the Eland tribe at Makapan's mentioned in Mr. Hook's evidence, p. 342. What is to be done about these? Is it not possible to join up Areas 2 and 3 and to include Maschishana's.

The Lydenburg Area seems to us to be entirely inadequate. The northern portion of Sekukuniland is drying up and the farms included in the area on the Lulu Mountains are, with few exceptions, not much good for cultivation, being rocky. All the farms along the Olifants River are useless for cultivation and incapable of irrigation. Of the farms recommended by Mr. Hunt for inclusion in native areas the best, near the Steelpoort River, have been left out by the Beaumont Commission.

Farms have been bought by Europeans here since 1913, and even in the Beaumont Area Europeans have been recently buying. This we think is to be regretted, as it complicates the problem. We think that something in the way of legislation should be done to stop this at once.

The large number of natives over the Berg between Pilgrim's Rest and the Selati Railway are outside the Beaumont Area.

In the Middelburg Area some readjustments seem to us to be necessary. The native areas recommended by the Commission only include those farms used by tribes at present in occupation. Sekwati's tribe will need more land for expansion.

In fact it seems to us that a large tract of country between Pokwani and the Tautesberg Mountain might be declared native area, and used for selling to natives for individual tenure, and for some big land settlement scheme.

We think the farms round Pokwani ought to be in the native area. Maserumo's tribe which lives near Pokwani spreads out over Nebo, Rietfontein, and Uitkyk for grazing and cultivation, and obtains its water from a stream on Ontevreden, and these farms are not within the Beaumont Area. These farms were in the old scheduled area. And it seems to us that where large populations are concerned, and where there is no available land in the neighbouring Sekwati area, the comparatively few white people in the district should give way, and not try to drive a white wedge into what is obviously native country.

We are of opinion that farms round the native reserves which have been rented by tribes for grazing and cultivation, and which are necessary to the sustenance of those tribes should in some way be secured to them. Some chiefs have expressed to us great fear lest farms necessary to the sustenance of their people should be sold over their heads to other natives.

That there is need for more native area for individual tenure in the Eastern Transvaal we are convinced.

The Barberton Areas 18 and 19, of 234,000 morgen, although new areas, do not meet the needs of that district. According to the figures in the report the natives of the Barberton district already occupy Crown and European owned lands to the extent of 374,000 morgen.

The Piet Retief Area No. 20 is also new. It is 91,133 morgen, but here again the native population of the district occupies to-day 95,130 morgen.

For the magisterial districts of:—

Bethal, with rural population	7,942
Carolina	11,735
Ermelo	24,799
Heidelberg	24,414
Standerton	14,000
Wakkerstroom	26,101
Witwatersrand	7,938
Total	116,929

No native areas are provided.

Consequently there is no outlet for this enormous population.

We know that they are for the most part labour tenants on farms, and from European evidence in those districts we gather that they are all needed on the farms. But surely there should be some outlet for those of them who may be in a position to purchase. As they advance in civilisation it is certain that a proportion of them will desire to get away from the position of labour tenants and to possess land which they can call their own. There are already native-owned farms in Carolina, Ermelo, and Wakkerstroom districts.

Could not Daggakraal and Vlakplaats in Wakkerstroom and farms around them be declared native area?

We consider this matter of providing areas for the settlement of farm natives of the very greatest importance.

Take for instance, Heidelberg district, with its rural population of 21,414. Even supposing that to-day all these natives are content to remain or become labour tenants under the Bill. It is not likely that they will all wish to become labour tenants in perpetuity. Some of them some day will seek an outlet from that condition; their sons at any rate will have some higher ambition. But what outlet is provided for them? Their only hope is to trek to the north to areas on the low veld.

We feel that their case demands the special attention of the Government. There ought to be considerable high veld areas and land settlement schemes to which such natives, who have the ambition and capacity to do so may go.

Again although this suggestion does not perhaps concern this Committee while the Government presents to the native living within the native area an attractive prospect in the promised introduction of a form of self-government, land tenure, etc., there is very little to counterbalance this in the case of natives in non-native areas.

Even the education of his children and his religion are at the mercy of his employer. Pass and police regulations in the Transvaal often bind him and his children to the farm on which he works.

Dwellers in urban areas also are left without any of the advantages which the Bill offers to the dweller in the native areas.

This leads us to say that there is very urgent need of the establishment of native townships in terms of paragraph 18, chapter III. of the Bill. Experiments made in this direction by private enterprise in the neighbourhood of Johannesburg have proved most successful. And, under Government control, we have no doubt that they would prove even a greater boon to natives working in urban and labour areas.

By the Chairman.] If the strip north of the Olifants River were excised Area 7 would be quite hopeless.

Even in the Sekukuniland area farms have been bought up by white people since 1913. Something ought to be done to stop that, as it complicates the matter. The native is barred. The thing should apply equally. I am under the impression that Government ground too has actually changed hands recently.

Mr. Hamilton.] We think the suggestion that there should be Native Land Settlement Boards a very good one, and we should like to see it incorporated in the report. One of our suggestions was that these Land Committees might be converted into Land Settlement Boards, because of their first-hand knowledge of the areas.

Chairman.] With regard to native townships, I may say that we have had representations from time to time at various points, and we have made a very careful note of them. I do not think there will be any difficulty about native townships in non-native areas. It is simply a question of local representation.

We went very carefully into conditions on the Witwatersrand, and visited some of the townships, where we found the conditions infinitely better than in Klipspruit and Vrededorp. We were shocked by the conditions at Vrededorp. We went to Sophiatown and found the natives living quite respectable lives there. We shall certainly recommend that the question of native townships should be considered by the Government, and that the municipalities should be urged to do something tangible. We see now that there is a suggestion to establish a native location at Newlands. We have not visited the site at Newlands.

Mr. Bridgman.] In my opinion that is a very desirable site.

Chairman.] We also had a look at a native township called Alexandra. It struck me that that would be an ideal site with a proper system of trams or trains. I understand the distance is about 6 or 8 miles.

Mr. Bridgman.] Newlands is about four-and-a-half miles. It is capable of extension if the Municipality can get vacant ground. I understand that the Municipality only propose this as one location. They propose to make a beginning there, but do not commit themselves to any further site. We shall be glad to see a beginning made in the hope that something else will come.

Chairman.] With regard to the high veld natives, you say Father Hill, that there are 116,929 souls on high veld areas in the Eastern Transvaal say roughly 25,000 families. Are these people indigenous to the Transvaal?

Father Hill.] They vary a great deal.

Chairman.] What proportion would you say were born there?

Father Hill.] I should not like to venture an estimate. The Heidelberg natives are, I think, mostly Transvaal born. Ermelo's are mixed, so are Standerton's. Wakkerstroom's are, I should say, almost entirely eastern.

Chairman.] Assuming that half are Transvaal natives, do you think it possible or desirable to provide for the others in the territories from which they came?

Father Hill.] We realise that natives who have been in the Transvaal for some time have broken away from tribal conditions, and some of them have even lost their language. It would not be possible or just to expect them to go back to tribal conditions.

Chairman.] But suppose it were possible to set aside an area in which these natives could be provided for on an individual tenure basis, do you think there would be any objection on the part of the natives, and, economically, would you think it sound to provide for them in that way?

Father Hill.] I have no knowledge of Swaziland, and I do not know the conditions there. The one thing that weighs with us is the fear of heathenism. The more the natives draw away from tribal influences the more likely they are to be christianised.

Chairman.] Assuming then that it would be necessary to provide for these 25,000 families in the Transvaal, do you think that, if an area were provided somewhere in the neighbourhood of Area 7 from Pokwani to Tautesberg, taking in the whole of the Secoecoeni Ward except the Blood River, that would be an adequate provision for the natives of the high veld?

Father Hill.] No. We have to consider the natives on the western as well as on the eastern side. In the area dealt with by the Western Committee there are a large number of high veld natives who have not been provided for at all. There is another point which I think is very strong. There has been a tendency for some time past for natives from the Free State to seek refuge in the Transvaal. Whole tribes have gone into the Wakkerstroom district seeking land. And that will go on. There are no areas in the Free State, and these natives will be seeking an outlet in the Transvaal. I think adequate provision should be made in the Free State.

Chairman.] With regard to Area 5, it has been suggested to us that the Shingwedzi Game Reserve should be excised together with the northern portion of the area. It has been said by a large number of witnesses that this northern area is eminently suited to cattle-ranching. Now, the majority of the natives in that part of the country are pastoralists. Some witnesses have said that that part of the area is wholly unsuited to natives. The question is whether it would be advisable to exclude that ranching country when we know that the majority of the Shangaans are pastoralists. Would you be in favour of the exclusion of that part of the area and giving them more suitable ground in some other part?

Mr. Hamilton.] I should say that was an excellent suggestion if they can get suitable provision elsewhere.

(The other members of the deputation agree).

Chairman.] There has been a suggestion that Area 19 should be cut into the European area, and that in exchange for that area Sections E and F in the Barberton district should be given to the natives. Do any of you know this area? We were struck with its suitability for natives as against Area 19. There are plenty of fountains and spruits running down the hills, and at Logogotu the original chiefs of the Shangaans used to live. There are 7,000 natives living in that area to-day. There is not the slightest doubt in our minds that for native settlement purposes Sections E and F are infinitely better than Area 19, but have not nearly the value of Area 19 for white settlement purposes. What do you think of the scheme?

Mr. Hamilton.] It is a good scheme to my mind.

Chairman.] Do you think that what I shall call "Open Areas" would be a means of providing for the natives gradually without causing any violent disturbance of white interests. Suppose you had certain open areas within which natives might be allowed to buy or lease land from white people, and where at the same time a white man might be allowed to sell his land to another white man, but if he once sells to a native the native shall not be allowed to sell again to a white man.

Father Hill.] Such an open area would be bound to become black in time.

Mr. Hamilton.] And it would not be a neutral area. One of the features we objected to in a neutral area was that there would be no guarantee that it would not become white.

Chairman.] Do you not think that the position would be considerably relieved if the license money were limited. You have a large number of natives living on the high veld to-day. Under certain conditions those natives will be allowed to continue there as native squatters subject to registration. Would not the sting be entirely removed if that native were allowed to live there without paying that license money, but if he wishes to change his tenancy then he be told that the only way in which he can do so is by going into the native area, otherwise he must become a labour tenant or a full-time servant? So he has two courses open to him. If he wants fixity of tenure he can go into the native area. There is no compulsion. If he says, "leave me where I am to-day," do so, but impose that condition.

Father Hill.] I think that would be alright. It might obviate what is likely to happen on company farms, that is, the wholesale removal of natives squatting on those farms.

Chairman.] There are, we are told, two fundamental considerations in the Bill. One is to get rid of the squatter. Do you not think, therefore, that there will be a tremendous amount of opposition to the abolition of the licence money?

Father Hill.] Yes, there is bound to be.

Chairman.] Do you not think, perhaps, that it would be feasible to have a smaller license fee which would still differentiate between the squatter and the labour tenant, so that the one condition may be more attractive than the other?

Mr. Hamilton.] We have already asked that this poll tax of £2 might be reduced to £1 in the case of the squatter, in order to give him some relief. But we have been brought up against this fact that the whole object of the Bill is to do away with squatting.

Father Hill.] Personally, I feel that the licence should be done away with altogether. I think it is the only solution of this company farm difficulty.

Chairman.] You have suggested high veld areas. Do you not think it would be a mistake to create little black islands over the eastern portion of the Transvaal, which is admittedly European?

Father Hill.] I think it would be a good thing for labour in that area if there were small native areas. The tendency will be for all natives to move northwards. What is the farmer going to do? He wants his labour close at hand. He wants a reservoir of labour, and I think areas on the high veld would supply such reservoirs.

Mr. Borst.] I think it would be a good idea for the Swazis to go back to Swaziland if that could be arranged.

Father Hill.] The tendency would be for the natives to go back to the neighbourhood of their tribal country.

Mr. Hamilton.] We made the suggestion that the boundaries of the native areas should not be fixed for all time—so that the Government should be in the position to provide for extension if the necessity should arise. The natives imagine that they are going to be shut up for all time. If it could be made clear to them that this is not absolutely final, a great deal of their opposition would vanish. I speak now from resolutions passed at Native Congresses.

Pretoria, 21st January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

EDMUND FRANCIS BOURKE: Examined by Chairman.

I live at Pretoria. I am here first in my own interest in regard to what is known as the O'Reilly Block, situated in the low country at the junction of the Blyde and Olifants Rivers—20 farms uninhabited. The farms are Essex, Liverpool, Derby, Southampton, Richmond, and others of which I shall furnish particulars later, situated in the north-east of Area 7, in the Lydenburg district. According to my information some of these farms are within, and others are outside the area.

The farms in the Block are unoccupied. To begin with they are not divisible. They are only useful if you keep them as a block. There are three owners. The estate of English holds twelve shares, my brother and I hold thirteen. Our difficulty is this, that if the block is included in a native area we should never be able to resell it at a price which will reimburse us. Our interest cost £15,000. As a block the farms are valuable as a future ranching proposition. It has good river frontages, and provides excellent winter veld, but is is particularly valuable, because you can move cattle up higher in the summer months. You could not keep them in the low veld in the winter because there is no water there. There is a fair amount of high ground. It is practically on the slopes of the Berg to the Olifants. The railway runs through a portion of it, and that makes it more difficult to divide it up.

Some years ago we prepared a plan to float it into a company for ranching purposes, but things took a turn for the bad. Of late years we have returned to the idea, and we have on several occasions put forward a proposition for ranching purposes, but now we are waiting to see how the Swaziland ranches answer. Our land is similar to the Swaziland propositions. It is certainly not a healthy country. It is malarious. The soil is of a granite character, there is no cultivable land, and neither natives nor Europeans are in occupation. I cannot say what the altitude is.

Chairman.] We had a number of witnesses at Pilgrim's Rest who said that it was most excellent soil, that 50 per cent. was cultivable, and that if trees were cleared it would be most excellent country for natives.

Mr. Bourke.] That is not the case on these farms, I am certain. I can put in the confidential report of our engineer, who spent a considerable time there, and I can give you the best authority in the country.

Chairman.] I should like to have that. Here is Mr. Munro's evidence given at Pilgrim's Rest. (Reads Mr. Munro's evidence on value of land in the area in question).

Mr. Bourke.] We paid 6s. per morgen for our land, and are prepared to take half the valuation Mr. Munro places on land in that area. The best judges of land in this country are the natives. If there were such land as he supposes it would be packed with natives.

If you took the whole block into the native area it would not be so bad, but taking in a part only would kill our project.

Chairman.] The point then is that by including a portion of these farms within the native area the idea of a big ranching scheme would be rendered useless?

Mr. Bourke.] Exactly. Rather than cut a portion into the area include the whole or exclude the whole. The difficulty in these areas is to get water. You must keep your cattle in the vicinity of the streams. You cannot trek them over large distances. But you can move them in summer. In winter you must have an area to which to go. The same principle is being recognised now by men in Bechuanaland, who are buying farms there.

We have held these farms for a very long time.

Chairman.] Were you aware that portion of these farms were going to be included?

Mr. Bourke.] No, not at first.

I am quite sure that Mr. Munro's evidence is not worth much where he says that that country is very rich and productive. The main point is that we do not think that country suitable for native occupation, but if it is considered suitable, then the Committee should take in the whole block and not merely a part of it. We cannot deal with it except as a block. We cannot divide it up apart from the block. It would be like taking a single farm, cutting off the watered part of it, and selling the remainder of the farm. The block has good prospects as a ranching proposition. It is quite valueless for European settlement. Its great value is that it is a block. If the block is disintegrated it means that it will lose its value from a ranching point of view. If it is cut into the native area, then in the interest of the natives it should be cut in as a block.

The farms belonging to the block outside the proposed native area are not occupied by natives. I do not know whether there are any natives on the farms inside. We do not get any kaffir rents. We may get small sums for the winter grazing.

We have one or two farms below the Bushbuck Ridge. They are not occupied by natives or Europeans. None of our farms are occupied by Europeans. We are not making any use of these farms at the present time. We are looking forward to doing so. A good deal of the country below Bushbuck Ridge belongs to companies.

Chairman.] We have the evidence of a gentleman who says that country is no good for cattle.

Mr. Bourke.] Every year there are applications from people who wish to go into the game reserve with their stock and sheep.

Chairman.] This is Mr. Barry's evidence on the point. (Reads it).

Mr. Bourke.] Mr. Barry's evidence shows at any rate that you require a big area for cattle. It may possibly be deadly taking cattle there, but we have a large farm on the top of the Berg, half high veld and half low veld. I sent a considerable number of cattle by rail from Pretoria to that farm, and my losses were extremely heavy, and that farm is considered to be one of the best in the Transvaal. It is the farm Coetzeestroom.

Chairman.] Do you know anything about the Sabi Game Reserve?

Mr. Bourke.] Only what I have gathered from Major Stevenson and Major Hamilton. It is practically on all-fours with these farms of ours. There is probably more area that can be cultivated. The man who could give you more information on that point is Mr. Gilfillan, the former Surveyor-General. His evidence would be as reliable as anything you could possibly get.

With regard to Area 17, I have a farm there called Geweerfontein. I object to the inclusion of that farm, because it cannot carry any natives. There is very little cultivable land, and it is a mining proposition. In the area we could work the mineral rights, but we could not transfer it except to natives. The exploitation of the minerals will be considerably prejudiced if the farm is tied up in the native area. We have already spent over £7,000. We were mining for bismuth.

I hope to have your sympathy with regard to Geweerfontein. There is a chance of our recovering bismuth and making use of the arsenic.

Chairman.] You see, the farm is quite in the heart of Area 17, and by its exclusion you simply create a white island among the natives there.

Mr. Bourke.] We shall have difficulty in future, if we should want to transfer it. If you legislate with regard to problematical future it is a different thing, but here you are legislating against a thing that is ascertained.

Pretoria, 23rd January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

PERCY GREATHEAD: Examined by Chairman.

I am here representing the Transvaal Land and Exploration Co. I am a South African, and have lived in the Transvaal since 1886. I am a practical farmer as well. I have represented my company as land manager for one year. Before that I represented the African Farms, Ltd., for thirteen and a half years. Both companies have very large interests in the Transvaal, the sole interests of the Transvaal Land and Exploration Co. are there. I am not now connected with the African farms in any way.

I know the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission. I know Area 7.

Chairman.] Have you heard of a projected irrigation scheme, which, if consummated, will affect Areas 7 and 17?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, but it would only very slightly affect Area 17. The conservation dam would be on the farm Loskop, and the scheme would begin to be effective on the farm Kalkfontein. The river itself is to be used as a channel or canal for passing the water down from Loskop reservoir to the pick-up weir, which is on Kalkfontein. There you have two canals which go down to a certain point on Rondavel. From there there is an interval up to Klipspruit, at which point there is another pick-up weir, which then carries the irrigable area on the left bank down to Zebediela's River, and on the right bank it passes that point and goes right down to Mooiplaats.

Chairman.] I believe you are general manager of the Sundays River scheme.

Mr. Greathead.] I have relinquished the general managership, but I am still a director. I carried out the whole scheme.

Chairman.] Would it in character resemble in any way the projected scheme on the Olifants?

Mr. Greathead.] There is no comparison whatever. The one is a great flat open plain without any obstruction at all. Here you have very expensive canals, and a very narrow area—altogether only 30,000 acres, that can be brought under irrigation. Taking the Sundays River as a whole there are 40,000 acres.

Chairman.] Is that an entirely agricultural proposition?

Mr. *Greathead.*] Yes, entirely.

I know the country covered by the projected Olifants scheme intimately.

Chairman.] Would you regard that as an entirely agricultural scheme, or do you think it should go hand in hand with ranching?

Mr. Greathead.] That is not the way to put it, if I may say so. The point is that you are 70 miles away from your nearest railway connection, and you cannot carry agricultural products 70 miles by ox-wagon, and then compete—particularly with bulky things like lucerne.

Chairman.] If you had easy access to your railway, what scheme would you have in mind?

Mr. Greathead.] Supposing I had £800,000 with which to carry out that scheme—since Mr. Hurley's report it may be possible to snip off £150,000, or at any rate a good deal less than the original estimate, and furthermore in the hands of a co-operation it would probably be cheaper than under Government—if I had that money I should not carry out that irrigation scheme at all. I should get some Karroo ground. The Olifants area is very poor ground compared with heaps of other ground which is valuable and suitable for irrigation. It is inferior to lots of land along the Vaaland, the Orange particularly in the west, and in the Karroo, where ground is infinitely more valuable. This Olifants scheme is going to take a very long time. It will have to wait until most other things are done. It is not a scheme for the immediate future.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that irrigation schemes in the Transvaal are very restricted indeed.

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, they are.

Chairman.] What about the Vaal River?

Mr. Greathead.] Barrages would irrigate on both the Transvaal and the Free State side. I am referring now to Mr. Hurley's reconnaissance of the Vaal River. His scheme contemplates a very large area being placed under irrigation, particularly on the Free State side.

Chairman.] Which would be the best form of co-operation, between the provinces or between the individual land owners?

Mr. Greathead.] Private co-operation is the ideal scheme. The Sundays River is such a co-operative scheme. It has worked out very satisfactorily. It is sound in every way. The ground on the Olifants is going to cost £20 an acre for water alone.

Chairman.] Would the scheme on the Vaal River as outlined by Mr. Hurley afford sufficient outlet for people who would wish to take up irrigable land?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, for a very long time to come. The Rand Water Board barrage would be a demonstration of what can be done.

Chairman.] Broadly speaking, in the interest of the country you would be inclined to reserve for the white people whatever land may be capable of fairly big irrigation schemes?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, absolutely—anything that came into the sphere of practical politics for, say the next thirty or forty years. These things come very slowly. To-day in America we find that there is no land which is capable of such development, and we shall be in much the same position in the next thirty or forty years.

Chairman.] I take it that you consider that the merits of the scheme along the Olifants are such as to justify its inclusion in the non-native area.

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, but in excluding it, I do not think it is necessary to exclude more than three or four miles of the land on either side of the two canals.

Chairman.] Is so much really necessary?

Mr. Greathead.] Well, that is a liberal allowance. It would be provided to enable people who work as we do in this country without motor-traction to graze the large number of cattle which will be necessary for work and transport purposes. You will want a fair amount of grazing for them.

Chairman.] Do you not think that by the time this scheme is completed mechanical traction will be a feasible thing?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, it may be so. In the western districts of the Cape Province you find that people do not use oxen any more. They are using mules. After oxen come mules, and after mules, mechanical traction.

Chairman.] I take it with your wide knowledge of white and native communities you do not altogether advocate the exclusion of the native from all opportunities of making use of irrigated land?

Mr. Greathead.] Except from this point of view that he is not likely to make the same good use of it, that is to say, he will not get the same return from it as the white man for many years to come. By the time he is able to do so he will have equal rights with the white man. He will be sitting in Parliament.

Chairman.] Do you think he will insist that this artificial barrier shall be broken down?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, he will insist upon it as he acquires civilisation.

Chairman.] Do you not think that in such a scheme as this which affects both area 7 and 17, it would be feasible to allow the natives the tail-end of the irrigation scheme in order to give them access also to a portion of the Olifants River?

Mr. Greathead.] Well, supposing this is gone on with, there is the Zebediela River, which is capable of conservation on a small scale. So are Chunie's, Mpahlele's, and Molep's, particularly the last three. They are quite nice little schemes though small.

Chairman.] Our difficulty is this, that while these schemes may be open to natives on the left bank, you have a fairly large proportion of the native population on the right bank, who would be entirely cut off from access to the Olifants River.

Mr. Greathead.] I have thought that thing out too. You have an irrigable area with a river running through the middle of it. At intervals you would have crossings through the river. These would become main public roads, and these roads will give access to the natives for the watering of their stock.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that access by the means recommended by you is likely to set up friction between the natives and the white settlers. Do you not think that if this is so it would be better to reserve portions of the river frontage which do not vitally affect those concerned?

Mr. Greathead.] It will only affect a very few natives.

Chairman.] Most of the natives live to the north-east of the river, and it was thought desirable to give them access for the watering of their stock and also to provide irrigable land for such of the natives as may be ripe for the advantages of the scheme.

Mr. Greathead.] They will have to pay 30s. an acre for the water-rate alone. The native, economically, cannot meet that charge. It can only be done by intensive work and up-to-date methods.

Chairman.] There is a native near Pienaars River who is said to be making £600 a year out of agricultural produce. Would not such a native be able to make almost as much use of irrigable land?

Mr. Greathead.] I know of such cases, but they are exceptions. There is one on the Steelpoort who grows a thousand bags of wheat, but these are exceptions.

Chairman.] Do you know that there are quite a number on the high-veld?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, but in dry land cultivation only. The native has taken his opportunity there. In the low-veld he has never taken out the water, even where it was easily to be taken out.

Chairman.] Is it not true that he has in some cases been afraid that the white man would displace him?

Mr. Greathead.] No, I do not think so. The native in his present condition looks upon agriculture as governed by the principle of sunshine and rain without artificial methods. These are the main things to get crops to grow. He has never thought of augmenting his water supply.

Chairman.] I take it that is true of the native under the influence of tribal conditions, who has not had the opportunity of learning from the white man.

Mr. Greathead.] As a matter of fact our own agricultural progress has only come in recent times. Forty years ago the progressive white man was the exception. The man who practised irrigation was exceptional forty years ago. I am speaking of the place where I was raised. None of our neighbours touched irrigation. It was a rare thing for the white man to irrigate. To-day wherever the white man can harness the water he does so.

Chairman.] Is it not true to say that the white man will only harness water if he has fixity of tenure.

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, that it quite true. It is expensive and he will not do it unless he has tenure. But then the native has always looked upon his tenure of Government and company farms as fixed tenure. It it only in recent times that he has been disturbed in his tenure.

Chairman.] Do you not think the native has felt somewhat insecure ever since the incidence of your rents, that is, since there was some organisation for the collection of the rents?

Mr. Greathead.] I do not know that he has felt actually insecure.

Chairman.] He realises that he has no fixity of tenure, and the outward expression of that was brought by the collection of rents.

Mr. Greathead.] That may have been a disturbing factor, but it has only taken place within the last few years.

Chairman.] Do you not think that there are classes of fairly advanced natives, who, if they had felt that they had some fixity of tenure, would have inaugurated some scheme?

Mr. Greathead.] You have some exceptional cases. I know, perhaps, of half a dozen.

Chairman:] Would 500 astonish you?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, 25 would astonish me. A large number of the natives on the high-veld are very wealthy in stock. The native is primarily a pastoralist, that is, broadly speaking. As a rule he grows enough food for his own consumption. On the high-veld he has grown some for sale as well, but that is only in the last ten years.

Chairman.] There is a gap in the irrigable area between Kalkfontein and Klipspruit. Would you say that that interval could afford the natives access and not necessarily set up any sort of friction between them and the settlers?

Mr. Greathead.] You would have the people lower down complaining that the natives have fouled the water up above. In practice, however, they would do no harm.

Chairman.] The water would be almost entirely used for irrigation purposes?

Mr. Greathead.] In many of these schemes it has to be used for drinking purposes as well.

Chairman.] Would it not be possible to lay off drinking water in pipes?

Mr. Greathead.] You would have to pipe it high up and bring it down a great distance. You might pipe it from the weir on Leeuwlaagte.

Chairman.] While on the question of possible irrigation schemes, do you know Area 19?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, I have been over it.

Chairman.] You know the white people have had their eyes on it so far as irrigation is concerned.

Mr. Greathead.] The difficulty is that it is very malarious, but I do not think it is an area which should not be included in the native area.

Chairman.] Is it rich country?

Mr. Greathead.] The soil is fair. It is not very rich. Plants grow because of the wonderful force in climate, and that is why the vegetation seems so rank and high. That does not always indicate richness of soil.

Chairman.]What classes of agriculture would be followed to advantage there?

Mr. Greathead.] Citrus-growing and tropical fruits, but that will be a long time coming. At any rate, it is an area which should be kept out for white settlement ultimately. The natives live on the edge of the river on both banks, and nowhere else in that area. The rest of the ground is absolute waste. They make no use whatever of the river for individual irrigation schemes. They are very primitive. They still cultivate with the hoe.

So far as health conditions are concerned, there was a time when, during the laying of the Delagoa Bay Railway, the cost of humanity amounted to one life per sleeper. To-day, people live there in comparative safety, owing to drainage of the swamps and improved conditions of life.

Chairman.] Would you be prepared to recommend where these natives should be accommodated if this area were excluded?

Mr. Greathead.] There are so few of them. They could either go to Swaziland or below the Berg. The native makes no use of great open flats. What he likes is little patches close to the river banks.

Chairman.] Do you know Logogotu?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes. There are traces of ancient native habitations in that neighbourhood.

Chairman.] We have been told that there is to be found there the origin of some of the native tribes.

Mr. Greathead.] I found in that part of the world frequent traces of an old population. I have often found and still have samples of blowers for iron furnaces, big melting pots, and tubs of fire-clay into which they ran off the metal.

I certainly think that area is more suited to native occupation than Area 19.

Chairman.] What is your opinion of Sections E. and F.?

Mr. Greathead.] It is excellent country for native settlement.

Chairman.] Have you been down below the Berg?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes. I know that a considerable number of natives live down there.

Chairman.] Most of that ground belongs to companies?

Mr. Greathead.] We have a fair number of farms near the Bourke Trust's holding. The Transvaal Estates and Development Co. have a big lot of natives on their farms there.

Chairman.] Do you think it is feasible to put these natives who live in here and the natives in the Lydenburg Area into Area 7?

Mr. Greathead.] I do not know the population and I should only be guessing if I gave an opinion one way or the other.

Chairman.] Would you be in favour of linking up all these areas?

Mr. Greathead.] I think you might link up the small areas like 2 and 3. I think it would be a good plan to connect up 2 and 3 and the neighbouring locations.

I have some experience of high-veld conditions. I know that there are about 290,000 natives on high-veld areas in the Transvaal. A very large number are not indigenous to the Transvaal. There are large numbers who come from the old Colony, the Free State, and Natal, and Swaziland. The Swazis are, I think, in the majority.

Chairman.] Is it your view that if these natives on the high-veld wish to buy or lease land, suitable provision should be made for them in the shape of land which approximates in soil and climate to what they are occupying at present?

Mr. Greathead.] These natives have been there a long time, they have large numbers of cattle. You cannot possibly ask them to trek to the low-veld with the risk of their losing the greater part of their stock. It would cause a great deal of trouble. They would have to bring their cattle to areas where gall-sickness and redwater are rife, and unless you move cattle with the very greatest care you would have considerable mortality. Apart from every other consideration it would be reasonable and fair to make adequate provision for that class of native on the lines mentioned by you.

I have no area in mind. We have had very little ground on the high-veld—I mean my company. We do not own a square inch there now. All the land there has been successfully sold to Europeans, which is a clear indication that land on the high-veld is in great demand.

Chairman.] What do you think of the area to the south of Area 7, in the Middleburg district?

Mr. Greathead.] I do not think much of it. It is low-veld, or rather middle-veld. There are a considerable number of natives living there too.

Chairman.] There is something like 70,000 morgen available.

Mr. Greathead.] You are asking me to extend these areas. I cannot agree to any extension while the bill remains what it is. The bill confiscates our ground without expropriating it. An extension might involve us in further loss.

This bill has made us feel very unsettled. The provisions undoubtedly amount to confiscation by the imposition of servitude which do not belong to the property. After all is said and done, we purchased directly or indirectly from the Government three million acres of land. We have paid our rates since. We have utilised the ground. It has cost us money, and the effect of the bill is to impose upon us very serious disabilities. Actually, we are placed in the position of having a very serious servitude placed on all our properties, and my company owns 600,000 acres, which fall within the areas proposed to be demarcated as native areas. We are very anxious to be of all the assistance we can to the Government. We have subscribed to the principle of territorial separation. We will go any length in reason so long as we are not shorn of our property.

Chairman.] In order to overcome these disabilities have you any suggestion to make? Do you suggest that the Government should expropriate?

Mr. Greathead.] I do not see why not. I do not see why the native should be given land without paying for it.

Chairman.] Is it your view that the bill contemplates giving land to the natives free?

Mr. Greathead.] There is nothing to the contrary in the bill.

Chairman.] What is the way out of the difficulty?

Mr. Greathead.] This is a debt owed by the country to the native, and the public should compensate for any loss or inconvenience that may arise. The public should finance the Act. My company has authorised me to say that, so far as it is concerned, it is prepared to agree to compensation by valuation or by exchange of area for area corresponding in value, and to give the Government long terms of payment, or to take Union 5 per cent. bonds redeemable over 20 or 25 years.

Chairman.] If the Government agreed to your terms, you suggest this would practically remove the sting so far as your land is concerned?

Mr. Greathead.] It would correct the impression that has got about. If the Government is going to enforce this confiscation or imposition of servitudes, you will find that capital is going to be hampered. It is a bad thing from a State point of view. And the State has no right to shear one class of persons for the benefit of another class.

Chairman.] The companies are not the only ones who are singled out for this particular disability you complain of. There are very large numbers of individual owners of land who would be in the same position.

Mr. Greathead.] I would like you to look at my map. Take Area 2. All these pink farms belong to my company. The blue ones belong to the Oceana, Ltd. So you see two companies alone are contributing one-third of that area.

Chairman.] That is not true, is it, of the whole of the Transvaal?

Mr. Greathead.] We have a great deal of land in the Sabi Game Reserve, from which we are also shut off, because the Government have made a sanctuary of that area. We have 300,000 acres which we cannot get at and which we cannot use.

Chairman.] Do you consider the Game Reserve unnecessarily large?

Mr. Greathead.] If the Government can afford to have a sanctuary it should afford to buy the farms. It should narrow the limits of the sanctuary or abolish it.

Chairman.] What is the extent of the Sabi and the Singwidzi?

Mr. Greathead.] I have not the figures but, roughly, it would be over two millions of acres.

Chairman.] Would it be feasible to shift the game from the Sabi to the Singwidzi?

Mr. Greathead.] The Sabi is the more valuable area. It is much better grassed and has better water. It is better in every way for game. There is a lot of game in the Singwidzi—it is practically all open Government ground. My company has 15,000 acres right in the centre. I know that reserve only just casually. It is not a good agricultural country.

Chairman.] Our evidence is to the effect that only one-twelfth of it is good for agriculture, but that has been denied. The estimate of one-twelfth is Mr. Mennie's.

Mr. Greathead.] I have no reason to disbelieve Mr. Mennie's evidence.

I think the Sabi better country than the Singwidzi. Parts of it are very much better suited to native occupation. A good lot of it can be placed under cultivation.

Chairman.] What is the value of land in and about that area?

Mr. Greathead.] I could sell Acornhoek readily for 25s. a morgen. Fleur de Lis belonging to the Oceana Company, changed hands recently at 17s. 6d. a morgen. And there is some very valuable land on the Sabi, also near the Umzutu. The streams shown on the map are just simply hollows or dips. In a great many of these places you could conserve water. There is not much surface water, but, of course, that applies to a great many of these areas—Areas 2 and 17 for instance.

I do not wish to offer any opinion as to the modification or enlargement of these areas in view of the disabilities imposed on my company so far as our land which falls into native areas is concerned.

Chairman.] Against your view as to confiscation may we not say that the prejudice or loss you may suffer may in some way be mitigated by the rents which you have in the past and may still recover from natives living on your farms in native areas?

Mr. Greathead.] If the Bill provided that land within native areas might be sold, cut up, and dealt with for native land settlement, that would very largely help us. Then we should be warranted in spending money for the purpose of native land settlement. We should get our money back. But to provide that land may be only sold for cash, and that you may not borrow money on it, is hampering to one's financial arrangements. You cannot mortgage land in the native area. We may not sell to a native or white man on terms. The native has no cash. He usually pays in instalments. Then a great deal of this land is not supplied with water. Arrangements would have to be made for sinking boreholes and making dams. A great deal of that sort of thing would have to be done to make the areas habitable for natives.

Chairman.] It boils down to this, that, if these disabilities you refer to were removed, your company would be prepared to carry out fairly large native settlement schemes?

Mr. Greathead.] We think it would be better for the Government to do that. We should prefer not to run native land settlement for a profit. But we think that if the Government is not prepared to expropriate, they should make it easier for us to make our money in that way. The public and many members of Parliament will say "now these land companies are going to exploit the native and charge him three or four times the value of the land. If the Government expropriated the land they would sell to the native at the actual cost to themselves."

To show you what we have been doing take Area 2. We have been developing our holding there for cattle ranching purposes. Now all these farms here are supplied with water. We have had drilling machines working there for the last year. The scheme was settled upon before the war, but the outbreak of East Coast Fever prevented its being carried out. That stuck us until it was found that dipping was efficacious. Then the further development was gone on with. All these farms now have water—borehole water. We have really gone in for very large development work with a view to a comprehensive ranching scheme. We have over 3,000 head of cattle in the block between Potgietersrust and Nylstroom. These cattle are to be drafted to Area 2, and the only thing that is

holding us up is this uncertainty. These cattle would leave to-morrow for the area if we were sure that our block was not to be included. If you could tell us that, I guarantee the cattle would all be there in another month. I asked the Select Committee to keep out that block, but if that were to have the effect of destroying the utility of the area we are not going to press the point. We have a block of 300,000 acres in Area 2.

I am acquainted with conditions on the high veld, also with the growing of exotic grasses in different parts of the high veld. I have tried them myself in many parts, but nowhere with success. Paspalum is not a good grass. Stock do not like it.

Chairman.] Why is it that it answers well in districts like Tarkastad.

Mr. Greathead.] Only under irrigation. The value of fodder depends upon the value of the soil. The grasses indigenous to the high veld are as good as you can get. They are as nutritious as artificial grasses with a few exceptions—Italian rye grass, for instance. This last does not answer except under irrigation. The rainfall on the high veld, though good, is not sufficient to make a success of these grasses. I have seen samples of Kikuyu grass grown in the Transvaal. It is not a proved grass. It is still in the experimental stage, but it is promising.

Chairman.] I should like to know whether any of these artificial grasses might be grown on the high veld with the idea of obviating the necessity of moving cattle and sheep from the high veld to the low in the winter.

Mr. Greathead.] I have seen no grass which keeps green throughout the winter except the rye grass. Kikuyu dies down, and is easily nipped by frost. That impairs its nutritive qualities. The same applies to Paspalum. There is no exotic grass which will answer and keep evergreen. Bleached grasses have not the same food value.

Chairman.] What will happen when this country is more intensively occupied? Will these people still be able to go to the low veld?

Mr. Greathead.] The difficulty can be overcome by smaller flocks and more intensive cultivation, and by feeding on roots and hay, as in most other parts of the world. That will become practicable with us as our population increases—we have room for ten millions more population. Of course, sheds must be provided in winter. People do not realise that housing is as good as food.

Chairman.] If artificial feeding was gone in for with housing of cattle and sheep there would really be no necessity for moving into the low veld?

Mr. Greathead.] That is so, but under existing conditions the farmer cannot afford to grow fodder. He does not get sufficiently good prices for his products. It may be different when the farmers combine and insist, as other manufacturers do, upon having a profit or ceasing operations. The farmer is very often a manufacturer selling under cost, and he is manufacturing what is very much more important than candles or soap. Until, therefore, we have a population which will create a steady demand for food we shall always have the fluctuating market. The farmer will always stand in fear of overproduction, which is easily brought about where there is a small population. So far as exportable stuff is concerned, such as mealies and wool, there is not very much to fear. The quality of our meat is not fit for export. European markets would in the ordinary course not take the stuff we have been selling since the war. There have been some very fine consignments of beef, but the bulk of it is very poor stuff. We shall have to produce much better stuff if we are to continue to export meat as to-day. All these conditions operate to the disadvantage of the farmer. They operate so that it makes it impossible for him to give the best that is in him to the State.

Chairman.] The unfortunate state of affairs to which you have referred is due entirely to the farmer himself, is it not?

Mr. Greathead.] No, it is due first of all to the limited population.

Chairman.] Can we produce sufficient now to meet the demands of the present small population?

Mr. Greathead.] You know, if you start the manufacture of jam or condensed milk you have got to manufacture it on a scale large enough to warrant your laying down a plant. Now, one Leeds factory can manufacture as many boots in one day as can be used south of the Zambesi to Capetown in a month.

Chairman.] It would be economically sound for farmers to grow fodder and house their stock in winter in preference to moving to the low veld?

Mr. Greathead.] They cannot grow fodder for the low class of cattle they have at present. You have exceptions, but taking the sheep as a whole they are a poor lot. The cattle are very inferior, and you cannot afford to feed an inferior animal like a good one. Then again there is the labour involved in growing food. Labour is too costly to enable one to grow food for a low-class animal.

Chairman.] What in your opinion would be the effect on the rent-paying squatter who finds himself in a non-native area if this Bill becomes law?

Mr. Greathead.] I am glad you have asked me that question. The position is this. I cannot afford to advance the £3 licence money which, under the Bill I should have to advance in respect of every native squatter on my land, because I am not sure that I shall ever get it back from him. It is really a loan to him, and as it is, I have enough trouble in getting my £2 rent a year, which it costs me £1 a year to recover. It costs me 50 per cent. to collect this money, and it is not likely that I am going to advance the native

another £3 and then spend half of it in collection. Therefore, we have definitely made up our minds that eviction is the only possible thing. It may sound inhuman, but it is the only possible course open to us. If the Government want this Act carried out we look to them to provide the necessary machinery for eviction. At present there is only the ordinary civil procedure, which is very expensive. The Government, of course, want us to evict the natives, that being the idea of the tax, and it is incumbent upon them to provide the necessary machinery for carrying out the spirit of the Act. We hope we shall not be referred to the Civil Courts. That would be imposing a disability upon us. The Government look to us to assist them in forcing natives to go to the area. It would not be fair to tell us then to go through the ordinary civil process.

Chairman.] The effect of the licence would be that you would seek to recover the money from the squatter?

Mr. Greathead.] If we had to pay it we should certainly recover it.

Chairman.] And if the native is unable to pay you will get rid of him.

Mr. Greathead.] I do not propose ever to ask the native to pay. I propose to start evicting as soon as the Bill becomes law. This is not bluff. It is our deliberate intention. It is the intention of the Government that the natives should go into certain areas, and the Government will no doubt have satisfied itself that there is sufficient room for them there. We take it that the Government means us to compel the natives to leave.

Chairman.] How many natives of that particular class would be found on farms belonging to your company within non-native areas.

Mr. Greathead.] I cannot give you the exact figures, but a fairly large number. Not more than five thousand, that is heads of families. It does not pay us to keep natives on our farms, owing to the exhaustion of the soil. We provide board and lodging at £1/6th per head.

Chairman.] We are faced then with this position that if the licence provisions stand as at present we shall have to provide immediately for 25,000 souls. And the position with which the native would be faced would be that he would either have to seek labour within the non-native area or, if he wishes to buy or lease land, go into the native area?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes.

Chairman.] The native would either be faced with service or have to squat in any one of these areas whether it suited him or not. And there is this consideration too, which arises in the situation stated by you, whether these proposed native areas are in a condition to receive this immediate big influx of natives.

Mr. Greathead.] I take it that the Government will have considered the position before passing the Act.

Chairman.] But what is your opinion?

Mr. Greathead.] I should say that the areas are not ready to take any more. That is just an opinion, or rather a guess. You have had all these people giving evidence and you have statistics.

Chairman.] Do you know that 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. of natives will find themselves in the non-native area?

Mr. Greathead.] No, I do not know that.

Chairman.] That means that there are approximately 400,000 natives that ought to be accommodated.

Mr. Greathead.] I do not envy the Government the difficulties of the position.

Chairman.] Were you in favour of the principle of a licence on squatters?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, if the Government has determined that that is the best way of getting the native out of the non-native area. But then the Government should provide an easy means of eviction. That is to say, the Government should provide that a native must within three months go to his Sub-Native Commissioner and ask for a place. If he does not move then the matter remains for the Sub-Native Commissioner to settle. If he has not moved within the three months the companies should not be debarred from recovering rent. The principle of the Bill really amounts to bringing compulsion to bear on the native to leave the non-native area or become a servant. The natives will be driven into one thing or the other.

Chairman.] You know that the natives who have been in contact with the white community, and particularly the rural community, for any length of time, are considerably in advance in their methods of agriculture of the natives who have lived largely under tribal rule?

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, that is so.

Chairman.] And you cannot expect a native who has become an individualist by reason of being released from tribal influences to hark back to tribal conditions, and be subject once again to a chief?

Mr. Greathead.] That would not be reasonable.

Chairman.] So, if that native wants to hire or lease land in a native area he will require to be separately provided for?

Mr. Greathead.] That is not a thing I have studied carefully, but I think you will be in for a lot of trouble in that respect. Such natives would naturally claim from the Government a suitable place in which to live. Some suitable provision must be made for them.

Chairman.] It has been suggested that it would be a sound principle to remit the licence money so far as the squatters are concerned.

Mr. Greathead.] Yes, if the Government do not want to enforce the principle of the Act.

Chairman.] Instead of definitely fixing areas as native areas would you be in favour of defining as open areas areas in which the natives might be allowed to buy or lease land, leaving it to the white owner or proprietor the right to sell either to a native or a white man, but when once he has sold to a native that native can never sell back again to a white man, so that in course of time these areas would become all-black without any of the disabilities which operate hardly upon owners of land within native areas?

Mr. Greathead.] That would save a lot of trouble. It would save the trouble of having recourse to eviction.

There is one request that I wish to make, and that is to exclude, if possible, the developed block of land belonging to my company in Area 2. The extent of it is about 300,000 acres.

Pretoria, 24th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and Mr. BOLTMAN.

WALDEMAR ROBERT TEICHMANN: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer, and live on the farm Klipfontein, on the boundary of the proposed native Area No. 16. I come here representing the Vigilance Committee elected by a public meeting of the farmers of the Pretoria district. I am one of the representatives. The others are not able to attend to-day. I hope they will attend later.

I know the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission as native areas. I wish to give evidence with reference to Areas Nos. 16 and 17 in the Pretoria district.

Chairman.] Take Area 16 first. Have you any representation to make as to its enlargement or modification?

Mr. Teichmann.] I have come here on the general principle. Our Society considers that the area is too large. The several reasons therefor are contained in the newspaper report of our meeting which I hand in. Commandant Opperman was one of the men elected to represent the views of the Pretoria district. Since then he has withdrawn entirely.

Chairman.] How do you arrive at the conclusion that the area is too large? That is, of course, from the point of view of the native population of the Pretoria district, and for the next ten years to come?

Mr. Teichmann.] In the first place we are dependent entirely on the native population as farm labourers, and we are afraid that if this ground is thrown open to them we shall be deprived of our labour. Again we do not think it is in the interest of the native population themselves to have such large areas. It has been proved in America and other places that they have no ambition whatever. If they want a little extra money they go to the towns where they work for a few months and pick up all the white man's vices. According to statistics they are very liable to venereal diseases and consumption, and immorality is rife among them. Statistics prove that in such circumstances they gradually deteriorate. Instead of increasing they have now reached the point where they will gradually decrease. The first sign will be that they will not increase as rapidly as they did formerly. The race that has had to be bolstered up has never prospered.

Chairman.] In what parts of America have such schemes as you mention been inaugurated without success?

Mr. Teichmann.] I do not know whether you have read this book "Race Traits and Tendencies of the American Negro." That deals with the whole question.

Chairman.] Do you think that the contact of the native with the influences of civilisation has had the effect of lowering his standard of morality?

Mr. Teichmann.] Yes. On my own farm I have about 20 families who work for me. Within the last ten years I have noticed that native girls belonging to the Church of England have gone to the towns, and after a few months have come back with children.

Chairman.] Is it not true to say that in the history of all nations right away from the Romans, as we advance we pay the penalty for the evils which are so to say part and parcel of advancement?

Mr. Teichmann.] I admit that in certain instances. You will find, however, that wherever the Aryan races have gone they have increased in spite of these drawbacks, and wherever they have gone they have stuck. You do not find that in the case of any aboriginal race.

Chairman.] The Census figures do not seem to support your view, for the increase of

the native population in areas where white people are very largely living is almost as great as that of natives who do not come into contact with white people.

Mr. Teichmann.] I admit that up to now they have increased at a greater speed than we have done. But Theal says that in the Transkei they are not increasing as rapidly as they used to do. It is only natural that the native will not increase at the same rapid rate when he has private ownership. I do not go so far as to say, however, that the more civilised natives practise restricted families.

Chairman.] Do you think that in the evolution of the native races the more civilised they are the smaller their families become?

Mr. Teichmann.] On my own farm every native girl that leaves the farm comes back with a child. That will have a bad effect on their productive qualities.

Chairman.] Do you not think then that we should so far as possible minimise the contact of European and native?

Mr. Teichmann.] Yes, and, if possible, segregation would be the best means of preventing such contact—if only it could be carried out. But according to our present ideas of freedom we cannot restrict the natives to the native areas, and they will have every opportunity of leaving those areas and coming to the towns.

Chairman.] Do you not think that as a first step towards consummating the ideal of keeping them apart territorial separation is a very excellent thing?

Mr. Teichmann.] Yes, on principle we are in favour of it. But we are not in favour of large areas. We maintain that it is not fair of the Government to say "They are the weaker race. We must separate them and bolster them up."

Chairman.] On what basis do you arrive at the opinion that the areas are too large? Is it on the basis of population?

Mr. Teichmann.] We are against calculating the areas on the ten years increase basis.

Chairman.] Suppose we cut that out for the moment, and take the present population?

Mr. Teichmann.] Even so we do not think the population should be the basis. Look at the matter from this point of view, ever since Milner's time, that is for sixteen years, they have had opportunities of buying wherever they liked, and they have made no use of them.

Chairman.] Do you not think that the native is very much in the position of a resident of London who has never seen any place of historic interest in his own city? He thinks he has plenty of time to do it in. Was the native not practically in the same position before these restrictions took place? Moreover, is it true to say that he has not made use of his opportunities. Hardly a year has passed but a farm has been bought by natives, and nearly all their property in Area 16 has been acquired of late years. Probably, if this Bill did not become law, and if it were necessary to repeal the Act of 1913 the Transvaal would be swamped by native owners of farms.

Mr. Teichmann.] Yes, probably it would. My point is that we are constantly taking up the attitude that we should look after and protect the native, and that nothing should be done to prejudice his interests, whereas for the white section nothing has been done. I think it is wrong to go on the basis of population in allocating areas.

Chairman.] You have 100,000 natives roughly in the Pretoria district, and there are 500,000 morgen provided for them, that is 5 morgen per unit.

Mr. Teichmann.] My opinion generally is that working on a population basis is not going to give us a satisfactory solution. It is difficult to get a basis on which to work it.

Chairman.] On what basis would you work it?

Mr. Teichmann.] In the first instance I should say that they have acquired so much up to now, and that they have had ample time in which to do it.

Chairman.] But they have never been warned that restrictive measures would be employed?

Mr. Teichmann.] No, they have not been warned. But look at Belgium and Holland. They are considered to be practically overstocked, but there is no international law which is going to allow them to increase their areas.

Chairman.] Broadly speaking, when Belgians and Hollanders are absorbed by other nations they have subject to certain limitations citizen rights, and they are able through Parliament to preserve their interests?

Mr. Teichmann.] Quite right. I maintain that the native race is not capable of amalgamating with us. If it were we should have no objection. But I agree the idea is intolerable and impracticable. That is the position which we cannot stand. In the same way I have no doubt it would be to the detriment of the native.

Chairman.] What I should like to put to you is this. South Africa is not going to remain as it is in point of population, and unless we attempt seriously now to settle this question of native and non-native areas on the broadest and fairest lines, it will be rendered infinitely more difficult later on.

Mr. Teichmann.] I quite agree, but we are attempting a settlement which will never be a settlement. The time will come when the two races will clash once more, and a second South African War will be fought. Even if we gave them half of South Africa to-day it has got to come. The two races are bound to come into collision. It will be a question of the survival of the fittest. We are the fittest. Why delay the process of extermination? Our interests come before the black man's. If it means killing the black man in the last resort we must do it.

Chairman.] Do you not think that if the native has his own areas and develops along his own lines, and in his own way, it is going to make for infinitely greater contentment than if he were thrown into constant contact with the white man, so far as the occupation of land is concerned.

Mr. Teichmann.] No, because in any case the two will come into contact.

Chairman.] The natives who live away from the influences of the white man—the masses on the veld are really totally different in this sense. They are less progressive, less ambitious than the natives who live on the farms of white people and in the urban areas, and who have had the example of the white man before them and have imitated his methods?

Mr. Teichmann.] Only to a very limited extent I should say.

Chairman.] Take all these students in native colleges. The native who has made headway on your farm sends his son to college, and these men claim to-day to be leaders of native public opinion. They are the men who to-day are very much opposed to this legislation. They say, "We must have equality of opportunity. We must have the same opportunities of advancement as the white man. We consider that we should be able to buy land anywhere." If there were anything in your argument the masses on the veld would be the people from whom you would expect the greatest agitation. They are perfectly content, and leave themselves in the hands of the Government. Now, under these circumstances is there not far less danger to be feared in removing contact so far at any rate as residence is concerned?

Mr. Teichmann.] If we could segregate the native totally, giving him an area anywhere in South Africa where he could not possibly come into contact, yes, but what we are doing to-day is bound to bring him into contact.

Chairman.] How in your opinion should Areas 16 and 17 be modified?

Mr. Teichmann.] I should suggest a line exclusive of their present holdings. I do not mean that all the ground exclusive of native-owned land should be cut out The nucleus of the area should be the native locations and native-owned farms Any farms falling in between I should include, and exclude so far as possible the farms on the fringe. There is the farm Leeuwkraal. That should be cut out in any case, with a view to a possible irrigation scheme on the Aapies—also Wynandskraal and Boschplaats.

Chairman.] Can a comprehensive irrigation scheme be carried out there?

Mr. Teichmann.] Yes.

Chairman.] I suggest that that is not so. On the authority of Mr. Kanthack.

Mr. Teichmann.] I do not regard Mr. Kanthack's opinion as final.

Chairman.] With regard to Buffelsdrift, would you be prepared to say that that should be excluded with the result of sandwiching the white owner between the natives?

Mr. Teichmann.] No, I should cut the native-owned portion of Buffelsdrift into the white area.

Chairman.] How many of the farms within Area 16 since it has been recommended as a native area have been acquired by white people?

Mr. Teichmann.] I cannot say. I know that Kalkbult has been acquired since.

There are about six families on Kromkuil 122. All the farms on the fringe of the area are occupied by whites.

Chairman.] Would you be in favour of Areas 16 and 17 being abolished?

Mr. Teichmann.] No, because we should lose all our sources of labour supply. We have found the native here, and he is an economic asset to us.

I am not very well acquainted with Area 17. Our view with regard to that area is that there are locations there already, and we do not see why that area should have been cut out at all. There are various places there which have very good prospects. The area is too big, especially with regard to the Elands River. We think that all the farms riparian to the Elands River should be excluded, and that a small portion should be given to the natives to the east of the existing area, that is, give them the eastern portion of Area 17 beyond the Elands River, together with their locations and lands they personally own and occupy north of the Elands River.

I do not know whether there is a feasible and comprehensive irrigation scheme on the Elands River. I am not sure, I do not know the country well, but I have been told that there is an ideal scheme on Toitskraal, and further north along the river.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that there is nothing there worth irrigating.

Mr. Teichmann.] I differ from Mr. Kanthack on that point. Take Allemansdrift, for instance. There I certainly think something could be done. Of course, there is no large comprehensive scheme.

Another reason why we want the areas to be smaller is that the farmers on the high veld need the farms there for grazing purposes. They have no winter veld at all, except in the areas. We should do everything to encourage the meat trade now. The best way of encouraging it is by retaining these farms in the white area.

Chairman.] What do you think of the suggestion of providing for the natives in the region south of Areas 16 and 17?

Mr. Teichmann.] It is difficult for me to offer an opinion. There are good opportunities for irrigation there, on Sybrandskraal for instance. I think that country is better suited for European occupation than for native. Personally I think that Area 16 is better and more fertile than Area 17.

Another objection to the areas is that they are large in comparison with others, and in close proximity to Pretoria, which is the Capital of the Union.

I have no views to express with regard to extending Area 16 westwards. Personally I should say leave the areas as much as possible as they are. There is not much chance of increasing Area 16 unless you go north.

I know the Hartebeestpoort scheme. No attempt has been made to interfere with the natives of Area 15, that is, no disturbance of them has been recommended as a result of this irrigation work bounding them on the eastern side. I have heard, however, that the Government have offered the natives other ground in exchange.

With regard to squatting, some of us are in favour of creating a licence of even £10 in order to abolish the system. The licence should not be higher in the case of labour tenants than is necessary to cover the cost of administration. The labourer should pay that.

Then with regard to Section 16, Sub-section 7, a serious point arises. We think the Government should definitely lay down when a native lad becomes of age.

Pretoria, 24th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

MICHIEL CHRISTIAAN ERASMUS, PETRUS JOHANNES ERNST ERASMUS: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. M. C. Erasmus.] I am a farmer, and live on the farm Witkoppies, near Irene.

Mr. P. J. Erasmus.] I am a farmer, and live on the farm Grootfontein in this district.

Mr. M. C. Erasmus.] We are here to object to the recommendations of the previous Commission, that is with regard to native areas in this district.

Chairman.] Take Area 17 first. Do you think it is too large or too small?

Mr. M. C. Erasmus.] Our view is that the Pretoria district is roughly divisible into three portions. There is a small portion of high veld which can be used for agricultural purposes. Then there is another portion which is very stony, and, lastly, there is the bushveld. If you cut away the bushveld portion you deprive the farmer of his stock country, and, moreover, you deprive the ground in the high veld and the middle section of its value as an agricultural proposition.

Chairman.] How would you recommend that the area should be cut?

Mr. M. C. Erasmus.] I can make no recommendation with regard to marking off Area 17. We have come here merely to point out the necessity of keeping people here, and to point out also how unfair it is to the Pretoria district to have an area here. I want to point out how important it is in the interests of the white people to retain the native areas as white areas. My own personal opinion is that it would be very much better if the Government did not mark off separate areas in each district, but rather placed the natives in one large block right away from the white people. To make segregation a possible and workable scheme the Government should set aside one huge area for the natives. We have always been in contact with the natives, and we see the result of it to-day. My opinion is that if the Government keeps the natives among the white population they will become nothing more than thieves and criminals. I was born in this country, and I have experience of natives. I am certainly of opinion that to have little black areas dotted among the whites will not be to the benefit of either the native or the white man. If the Government wants to make a success of the scheme of territorial separation, we consider that a liberal area should be provided for the natives in that part of the country which is less densely occupied by white men.

The high veld is essentially a white man's country: on the other hand there are parts of the Transvaal which are essentially native, and areas should be provided for the natives there. There are a lot of natives in the Pretoria district who originally came from other parts. The original home of the native is in the back blocks where white people cannot live.

Mr. P. J. Erasmus.] The views of Mr. M. C. Erasmus are practically my own. I was born in this district, and my father farmed here before me. The middle section of the district which Mr. Michiel Erasmus has referred to as stony and little suited for agriculture is certainly the poorest ground in the district. There is no chance there of providing hay for cattle-feed, and that is why we stick to the bushveld. We depend upon the manure of our cattle, and without the winterveld, farming in the middle veld would be of practically no value at all. You may have noticed that a farmer of the Pretoria district can farm successfully in any part of the Transvaal, but a high veld farmer cannot make a success of farming in the Pretoria district. Pretoria is peculiarly situated with respect to farming.

Again, there are districts which have no native areas at all, while Pretoria which is the Capital of the Union is called upon to provide an area. We think that in view of its importance there should be no native area in this district.

Historically the position is that when the white people came and settled here there were no natives at all, except a few Bushmen. The Voortrekkers obtained their native labour from Secocoeniland. When the natives saw that life and property were safe in this part of the country they gradually came in. It is since then that we have had the locations.

We have been instructed to recommend that there should be no native reserve in the Pretoria district, in view of the fact that the bushveld is relatively so small in comparison with the requirements of those farmers who have no winterveld for their cattle. If the Committee can see a way of getting rid of the existing locations and privately owned native farms—for instance, by exchanging them for land more remote from Pretoria and the white population, I am sure there would be no objection thereto.

The most suitable place for the natives to be sent to is, according to the view of the people of Pretoria South, away up to the Waterberg and the Limpopo, where there are not so many white people, and where the exchange of property would cause less trouble in administration. My idea is that there should be a large central area for the white people right through the middle of the Transvaal, with a native area to the east and the west. It would be for the Committee to decide upon the exact limits of the area. I do not think it desirable to have one large area. It would be better to have several in view of any native trouble that might arise.

Roughly, I would suggest on the eastern side an area extending from the Kaap Block right up to the Zoutpansberg, and another area westwards extending from the north-western corner of the Zoutpansberg district to the Crocodile River in the Rustenburg district. The whole of such areas need not necessarily be given to the natives at once. I would suggest that the portion which is in excess of the natives' present requirements be reserved as a game reserve, to be available as occasion arises for the extension of the native area, which will no doubt be necessary in another fifty years time.

There is a lot of game on the Palala. Those people who are living in those areas could easily be removed, not by expropriation, but by exchange.

Chairman.] Are you representing the public?

Mr. Erasmus.] We were chosen at a public meeting held at Sterkfontein and Boschkop in the Witwatersrand Ward.

Chairman.] Do you think that the natives on the high veld would be content to go into the area you suggest.

Mr. M. C. Erasmus.] I have natives on my farm who have bought property in the neighbourhood of Rooiberg. They are mostly natives of Sjambok's Kraal.

Chairman.] Do you think the white people of Waterberg, Pietersburg, and Zoutpansberg would agree?

Mr. Erasmus.] The question is whose interests need to be observed the most. As I said just now, there is a crying need of the bushveld in the Pretoria district for winter grazing.

Chairman.] What is the value of ground in the northern portion of the Waterberg district?

Mr. P. J. Erasmus.] I know two persons living to the north of Zandriviersberg who bought their farms for 5s. a morgen. They were selected farms. A little lower down in the middle veld you could buy for 2s. 6d. a morgen.

Chairman.] What is the value of ground in Area 16?

Mr. P. J. Erasmus.] I am trying to buy a farm there now, and I am asked £2 a morgen. The farm borders on the river. The average value of ground, in my opinion, would not be less than £1 per morgen.

There is another point I wish to impress upon the Committee. Where there is a native area the surrounding country for 9 miles might just as well be native area too, for all the use it is to the white people.

It might occur to the Committee to ask why is the bushveld unoccupied. It has been said because it is not suitable for white people. The real reason is that the land is so very valuable for winter grazing that it is not desirable to let cattle graze there in summer. The fewer cattle you graze there in summer the better it is for the cattle in the winter.

Chairman.] You say that the great majority of the high veld natives came originally from the low veld. It is said that many of them come from Swaziland, Basutoland, and Zululand, and that if we do not make provision for them they will return to the places from which they came, and so we shall lose their labour.

Mr. M. C. Erasmus.] Formerly we employed more natives on our farm than perhaps anybody else, and we had then to get them from Secocoeniland. They are still here.

The native lives on almost nothing in comparison with the white man. He can compete in our markets therefore with a greater profit than we can. He will certainly remain if he can. You get more service out of a native servant than out of a labour-tenant.

Chairman.] Where would you allow the high veld native to buy land?

Mr. Erasmus.] In the Native Areas.

Chairman.] But suppose the Native Areas are Low Veld?

Mr. Erasmus.] I am of opinion that they would buy there. In any case there is a high veld area in the area proposed by me—North-west of Zandriviersberg. I know people who come from there.

Chairman.] But your proposal is lower than that.

Mr. Erasmus.] No, I should make my proposed area run from a point on the Matlabas River on Zandriviersberg along the Berg until it cuts the Magalokwin, thence running with the Magalokwin in a Northerly direction to the Limpopo, and thence back to the Matlabas. There is a lot of high veld in that area. I do not recommend giving the natives too much of the low veld between the Crocodile and the Matlabas. The native's greatest ambition is cattle-farming and farming with goats. You could give them no better place for cattle and goats than just that portion of the Transvaal.

I can give no opinion with regard to the Eastern area recommended by me.

Pretoria, 24th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

MAJOR AFFLECK ALEXANDER FRASER: Examined by Chairman.

I am Acting Game Warden of the Government Game Reserves.

The total area of the Shingwedzi Game Reserve is about 5,000 sq. miles, and of the Sabi about 10,000 sq. miles.

Chairman.] Are there any natives in the Shingwedzi?

Major Fraser.] Very few. There are five small kraals. They are a sort of Shangaan. Most of them came in after the Portuguese Native War. They have been here about 25 years.

Chairman.] How do they live?

Major Fraser.] They have not been able to grow enough to keep them for some years. They have only small stock—a few goats. They are just existing—and hardly that. They are practically starving. This year they may get crops with the good rains we have had. The rivers and tributaries in the Shingwedzi marked in the map do not exist in fact. For five years there has been no water in them until now. The Shinwedzi River which splits the Reserve into two has only had shallow waters and pools.

The Reserve runs from the junction of the two Letabas up to Shukundu's Kop, thence along the Southern boundary of Shukundu's Location and Mhinga's, and thence along the Pafuri River to the Portuguese border. Between the Letaba and the Olifants is open ground which now falls into the Game Reserve.

Chairman.] What is the average rainfall in Shingwedzi for the last three years?

Major Fraser.] I have no rain-gauge. This last year there has been a lot, but before that five inches was the average at the very outside.

Chairman.] What is the country like?

Major Fraser.] It is not fertile. It is no good. I do not know whether you have seen an old map of that area. The Reserve was then full of kraals. You can find the remains of them now. The area must at one time have been very attractive to natives who have cleared out since owing to altered conditions.

Chairman.] Can you tell us when this period of native occupation occurred?

Major Fraser.] There are evidences of kraals, but no signs of cultivation. The occupation must have occurred some considerable time ago. The biggest lot of people I have ever heard of there were the Basuto on the Eastern boundary. Some of their descendants are still living close to the junction of the two Letabas.

Chairman.] What is their appearance physically?

Major Fraser.] They are a poor lot. They are below the Bantu standard.

Chairman.] From your personal observations can you give us any idea of what number of natives at one time occupied that area?

Major Fraser.] There is no record that I can get at. From my own personal observations there were never at any time a very great number—never so many as 50,000. According to the Missionaries map I have seen there must have been a large number.

Chairman.] Do you think that if the soil were resuscitated the country might be suitable for native occupation?

Major Fraser.] No, I do not think that you could ever do anything with it. The soil is poor. There are patches of good soil here and there.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us by witnesses that 50 per cent. of the Shingwedzi is both arable and productive.

Major Fraser.] They must have had a curious experience of it. There has never been a crop. There is only one piece of ground that I know of in the Reserve that will produce a crop.

Chairman.] Is there plenty of game?

Major Fraser.] Any amount of it especially big game. There are Kudu, Roan, Wildebeest, Sable, Zebra, and a good number of Elephants.

Chairman.] What is the grazing like?

Major Fraser.] There is a good deal of good grass. There is not a great deal of Buffelsgrass. There is sufficient water brackish water for the game. The Reserve is unhealthy, but personally I do not get fever there.

Chairman.] Would you say it is comparatively healthy so far as tropical diseases are concerned?

Major Fraser.] It suits me, but other white men often get fever there.

Chairman.] How many morgen of grazing ground would you require to sustain a beast in the Shingwedzi?

Major Fraser.] It is difficult to say. The grass varies from year to year. It is only Kaffir cattle that live down there. They do quite well. I should say 8 morgen at the very least. It is impossible to lay down any figure for game. Game must have an enormous area to wander over. He picks his food over a large area.

Chairman.] What is the number of big game?

Major Fraser.] My estimate based on Major Hamilton's is 25,000 approximately. Major Hamilton's estimate for the Sabi was more than that.

Chairman.] What is the character of the country in the Sabi? Does it approximate to the Shingwedzi.

Major Fraser.] The Mapani Bush begins after you cross into the Shingwedzi. In the Sabi there is a different class of Bush. A great portion of it is all grass land with no bush.

Chairman.] Is the Sabi healthy as compared with the Shingwedzi?

Major Fraser.] It is not nearly so healthy. The soil is fairly good for agricultural purposes. In the Lydenburg portion of it there is a fair amount of good soil. There are a large number of natives living there squatting on Companies' and private farms. They are mostly Shangaans. The natives suffer a good deal from fever especially in this last season which has been exceptional. Normally they are fairly healthy. There is no European occupation.

Chairman.] Would you say that over 50 per cent. of this area north of the railway line is arable and productive?

Major Fraser.] No, hardly. The rainfall at Sabi Bridge for 1916 was 10·69 inches, and for 1917, 24·6.

The Barberton portion of the Reserve is a little higher than the Lydenburg. The country there is not much good except along the Logies and the Crocodile. I think the Lydenburg portion on the whole is better. The Barberton portion is pretty well waterless. I do not think there are any Swazis living North of the Sabi River.

Chairman.] I understand from correspondence that you are not in favour of the inclusion of the Shingwedzi in the native area?

Major Fraser.] No, because I think it would mean starvation to the natives. They cannot feed themselves there. I have often had to feed them. The Basuto I referred to as living in the Shingwedzi lived right on top of a hill. Their water supply gave out. I am opposed to the inclusion of the Shingwedzi, because the natives living there are not able to subsist. The country is not fit for them. I do not think the country will ever recover again unless it has big trees upon it. Country that has been cleared and used until it is exhausted never recovers.

There is one point I should like to call attention to and that is the usefulness of the Shingwedzi as a buffer area between the Transvaal and Portuguese territory. With such a buffer area it is easier to deal with smuggling. If you bring natives into it you make it much more difficult to look after the game.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the Shingwedzi and the Sabi are altogether too large for the purposes of game protection?

Major Fraser.] Of course a man can only have his own opinion about that sort of thing. If you want game you must have a large area. You cannot confine game. In seasons when rain is scarce a troop of Kudu will go fifty miles in a day to look for food. Perhaps the Reserve could be reduced without prejudice to the game. It would be better to reduce and nationalise it than to keep it on under existing conditions.

Chairman.] What portion might be excluded from the Sabi as best suited to settlement purposes European or native on the one hand, and on the other hand as best suited to the habits of the game? I take it that, if your idea is to maintain homogeneity between the Sabi and the Shingwedzi, you would exclude the Southern portion of the Sabi?

Major Fraser.] Yes, that is so. I should like to keep the strip all the length of the two reserves next to the Portuguese border.

There is not much smuggling, but there would be a good deal if you put natives into the Reserve.

Wakkerstroom, 27th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMANN and Mr. BOLTMAN.

WILLEM GERHARDUS VAN ENTER: SCHUURMAN: Examined by Chairman.

The farmers in this district are very much opposed to having a native area in this district owing to stock-thefts. You are bound to have stock-thefts where natives are living among the farmers.

The farms Daggakraal, Vlakplaats, Driefontein, and Driepan in this district are owned by natives. Daggakraal and Vlakplaat are high veld. Driefontein and Driepan low veld.

Stuurman's Location was given to him by the old Government for services rendered, to be held by him during good behaviour. The Government may deprive him of it if they wish.

So far as I know every farmer in the district is bitterly opposed to having these natives or any other natives on the high veld except under conditions of labour. Below the Berg they do not mind so much, because most of the farms there are not occupied except for winter grazing.

Chairman.] Would you be in favour of giving natives opportunities of buying and leasing land in high veld areas not so thickly populated as this district?

Mr. Schuurman.] That appears to be the only way out of the difficulty.

Daggakraal and Vlakplaats are in the middle of some of the finest farms of the district. There is a tremendous lot of cattle on the surrounding farms, and there is a great deal of trouble to prevent the natives from stealing. There is constant friction, and farmers in the neighbourhood have difficulty with labour. The natives should be given an opportunity in some other portion of the country nearer to the native areas proper but approximating in climate and general conditions to this part.

I have been here two years. I was at Bethal before that. I am Native Commissioner and carry on the work of Native Affairs.

The natives here come chiefly from the Free State. I cannot say just now how long they have been here.

Daggakraal was bought on the 3rd October, 1913, and on the same date Vlakplaats and Driefontein. These natives were here long before that. They are relatively new comers—say within the last ten or twelve years.

The Zulus of Stuurman's Location were here long before the war. There are both Zulus and Swazis in that location. I do not know the circumstances under which they came into this district.

The present chief of the Stuurman tribe is now serving a life-sentence for the murder of his wife. I do not suggest that the tribe should be penalised on account of his crime. The location is one of the finest farms in the district. There is a river running through it. The extent of the Location is 5,077 morgen.

Chairman.] Is there any demand for native labour, any complaints?

Mr. Schuurman.] The farmers are fairly well supplied, but could do with a lot more. The conditions of employment are generally 6 to 9 months labour in the year. The native gets land for agriculture and grazing. Some farmers pay their boys in addition, but that is uncommon. Economically it is not a sound form of employment. A more continuous form of employment would be better. The system however is so engrained that it would take very many years to get rid of it. It is certainly the most popular form of employment from the native point of view. It pays him better. At the end of their nine months they go all over to work, here and in Volksrust and in Johannesburg. They work in order to get sufficient money to pay their tax and increase their herds. There is a lot of trouble in getting them back. They fall into arrear so far as their service is concerned, and have to make it up again.

By Commandant Oppermann.] The farms Daggakraal and Vlakplaats are in the midst of some beautiful farms; the farmers are bitterly opposed to having these natives there.

I cannot say whether the people in other high veld districts would be content to have native areas there.

I prefer to make no suggestion as to where the natives should be provided for in this district.

By Chairman.] I think the district would be quite satisfied if there were no native areas. Very few natives pay rent in this district. The large majority are labour-tenants. It is exceptional to pay wages.

Piet Retief, 29th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMANN and MR. BOLTMAN.

CAROLUS ENGELBRECHT: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer and live on the farm Susanna in the district of Piet Retief. I am also Sheep Inspector for Ward 1.

I know the native area recommended by the Beaumont Commission in this district more or less. I am opposed to having any reserves in this district, but I shall not go into that question. I wish simply to give my opinion on the area recommended. Within the area the land is some of it owned privately, some is Company ground, and some Government. There are large blocks of Company ground. There have been many applications from white people to hire land in that area.

The only matter in which I should like to see an alteration is this. There are seven farms extending from the farm Wildebeestdraai 164 to the Eastern corner of the area, which are a Game Reserve. I should like to see that portion a native area, because it is dry and unhealthy. There are a few kraals there now—in the extreme South-eastern portion. I should also like to see Rietspruit 158, and Koppiealleen 157 excluded from the area, and also the area between the Game Reserve and those two farms. That area is below the Berg, and it is unhealthy. The natives there suffer so much from fever, that I could hardly get any to work for me, and they are always hungry. They live for the most part on game. The Police cannot get there. Patrolling is practically impossible. The Berg I refer to is the Randberg. Koppiealleen is a farm that I have hired from the owner who lives in Heidelberg. I do not live there. I use it only for native labour. Another thing is that when times return to the normal we shall want to use the bushveld again for our cattle. It was largely used for cattle before the war. It is good only for cattle, and I am looking forward to our requirements for the future. Cattle used formerly to come from Ermelo for the grazing. There is a lot of fever. The country is more or less flat with a few ridges. The natives sow a little mealies and Kaffircorn. The land is quite arable, and when there is rain they do quite well. But it is so hot that the crops are burnt up unless there is rain. The rainfall is very low. I do not know what the altitude is.

The population is Zulu mixed with Swazi. They intermarry to some extent. They have a certain amount of cattle. There are Swazi families in the Game Reserve. There is fever also in Swaziland and Zululand. The natives are accustomed to fever. They have lived there for many years—I should say quite forty years. I have been here thirty-seven years and they were here before I was.

Chairman.] Where do you propose putting the natives who are cut out by your proposal?

Mr. Engelbrecht.] I see no way of compensating them. If the area is not sufficient they can become servants. Our labour position is not satisfactory. The Mines can get labour but the farmers cannot. There would still in any case be room for a good many natives in the remaining area.

Chairman.] How many natives are there in the district?

Mr. Engelbrecht.] I believe about 35,000. I think the small area left over would be sufficient for them.

Chairman.] Suppose we cut out the portion you suggest, you will have a small white population wedged in a native area.

Mr. Engelbrecht.] That portion would not be a white area. White people cannot live there. If we gave away the good grazing I have referred to, we should be prejudicing our children. The area that I suggest should be retained for the natives, is rugged country, consisting of Kopjes and Kloofs.

Chairman.] Do you think that the fifteen farms left over would be sufficient for the 35,000 natives in the district?

Mr. Engelbrecht.] No, but there is plenty of room in the remainder of the district, if the natives will come and live there. I reckon that the natives who want to can live on those fifteen farms. There is room for ten years—plenty of room for the whole native population of 35,000. At the present time that area is almost empty. If anything should be given in addition, I would suggest that Bongaspoort and Klipwal be thrown in.

By Commandant Opperman.] I should rather give those two farms and keep the area which I have suggested should be cut out. But not if there is going to be any trouble in regard to the mineral possibilities of those farms. Berbice is a private farm, belonging to Weber. Bergplaats and Belgrade belong to companies.

By Chairman.] The people in the area I want excluded will never live there. They will only use it for grazing. The ground is only valuable in the Winter.

Piet Retief, 31st December, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, MR. BOLTMAN.

John Edward Krogh.] I am Acting Magistrate and Native Commissioner for the District of Piet Retief, and have held that position for two months. I have been stationed in the district for two years, and know it fairly well. The native population of the district is from 30,000 to 35,000 Zulus and Swazis. I think there are more Zulus than Swazis.

The Piet Retief district is, broadly speaking middle veld with the exception of the South-eastern corner which is low veld. The average rainfall in Piet Retief and neighbourhood varies from 35 to 42 inches. It becomes very dry in the bushveld. I should say the rainfall was 10 to 15 inches lower in the native area where the bushveld begins.

Chairman.] Have you any views to express on the adequacy of the proposed native area?

Mr. Krogh.] I consider that it is sufficient and suitable except for the farms in the extreme South-eastern corner—about five farms which are very malarious. These farms could be used for grazing. A portion of the area is mountainous. The natives could live on the Heights and the slopes.

Chairman.] How much of that land could be cultivated?

Mr. Krogh.] I am afraid I could not say. I have not been down there for the last twenty years. Some of the farms are very dry. There are two rivers, Spekboom and Rietspruit. The area adjoins Swaziland and Zululand. That is one of the reasons why it was recommended by the Beaumont Commission.

Chairman.] Do you think that natives in non-native areas would come into this area, or would they go into Swaziland or Zululand?

Mr. Krogh.] Some of them would go into Swaziland or Zululand, but many would go into area 20 because their relatives are there. Natives living on the high veld or middle veld might go to Swaziland or Zululand, but a greater proportion would go into the area. There are about 2,000 natives in the native area at the present time, leaving a balance of about 30,000 outside. There are a lot of natives just outside.

Chairman.] Would the area hold the natives for the next ten years to come?

Mr. Krogh.] I think they should have a few more farms. I would suggest that the farms Belgrade, Tobalsk, Oranjedal, Altona, Bongaspoort, and Klipwal be added. Some of these farms were excluded originally because gold was being worked there. There are a large number of natives living there. These farms belong to the New Scotland Company and another company. Some of them are let at the present time for winter grazing. Otherwise the farms are fully occupied by native squatters who are paying rent to the companies—Zulus for the most part, who fall under the chieftainship of Magabulundu and Sitombi. The former chief was on one of these farms and had trouble about dipping fees. He has removed to Pipeklipberg some distance out of the area. There are some white people on these farms, Gillespie on Bergplaats, Marais on Oranjedal, a private farm belonging to Scheepers.

Chairman.] Mr. Cross has said that there is a tendency on the part of the employer to object to the period of three months, and also on the part of the natives, especially the younger ones, and that he thinks the system a wasteful one.

Mr. Krogh.] The difficulty here is that the natives are simply told that they must work, but no definite period is fixed. The farmer who makes his people work for a definite period has no difficulty. It is only the man who uses loose methods that is constantly in trouble about labour. The native must be given an opportunity of going outside to pay his tax and add to his fund. Some farmers pay the tax, and for £1 a year get a whole year's labour out of the boy. The man who treats his boys well always has sufficient labour. The employer should recognise that if he lets the boy go away to work he becomes a more contented native.

To a great extent it is desirable that a native should come back after six months absence, because it is the kraal influence and the kraal life that keep him straight. From the moral and social point of view the Labour-tenancy system is a good thing.

The natives in this district have recently gone in more extensively for the use of the plough. But for the War they would have used the plough still more largely. Down below the Berg they still use the hoe. It is difficult there to use a plough.

Chairman.] Is there a tendency among the natives to develop agriculturally or pastorally?

Mr. Krogh.] In area 20 pastorally. The native is more centred on cattle than on agriculture. That is true of the whole of Piet Retief. As long as provision were made for their pastoral requirements they would be quite satisfied. So long as they have gardens which will keep them going through the winter their main idea is to develop pastorally. When they have not enough grain they are obliged to sell some of their

cattle, but they never like parting with cattle. Most of the natives are detribalised. Down South they have their chiefs and are under tribal rule. Tribal authority has diminished considerably further up towards the direction of Piet Retief.

Commandant Opperman.] Do you think that the Zulus in this district would rather go back to their old country?

Mr. Krogh.] I doubt it very much. These natives have lived here so long that they will feel that if they go back they will not have the same say as they have had here. The same thing applies I think to the Swazis. They are mostly natives who have fled from Swaziland for some reason or another—not necessarily on account of crime but because they have been unable to agree with the chiefs. The Zulus have been here so long that they look upon the area as their right.

By Chairman.] Those Swazis and Zulus who have come in here and lived on farms have lived as individualists and have developed on lines totally different from those obtaining in Swaziland and Zululand, where the native is entirely under the control of the chiefs so far as the allocation of land is concerned, and I think it would be very difficult for these natives to go back to the collective system in their own country. I think that would be one of the chief objections.

Chairman.] Suppose the native were provided for individually in Swaziland and Zululand, there would not then be the same objection?

Mr. Krogh.] I do not know how you would provide. It might be practicable if Swaziland and Zululand were areas in which natives could buy and lease land. But then there is the matter of sentiment. This country has been their home for so long—for generations.

Welkom Police Station, Piet Retief.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, Mr. BOLTMAN, Mr. KROGH, Acting Native Commissioner, and about 300 Natives.

The Chairman and Mr. Krogh having addressed the natives, the following representative natives were heard.

Sitambi.] We do not know what to say. After all we are in the hands of the Government who owns the ground. We explained to Mr. Dower when he met us here that we were perfectly content to remain where we are. Ever since we left Zululand we have lived contentedly at our present kraals and we do not want to be disturbed. If an area must be demarcated for us, then we say our present kraals should fall into that area as we came here many years ago and are living under tribal conditions. The land on which we live is land which has been allocated to us by our chiefs. We have lived there for many years and we should like to die there. Chaka acquired this country by conquest. From that time to this it has been regarded as our country. We recognise Solomon, the son of Dinizulu, as our paramount chief.

I am a chief of the Zulu and I live on the farm Beginsel.

Nabahlamini.] I am a chief of the Zulu and I live on the farm Witklip. We were placed where we are now by our chiefs on ground which we always regarded as being our own. We want to remain where we are. We shall be glad if you will ask the Government to allow us to remain, that we may not be disturbed in our kraals.

Magubulundu.] I am a chief of the Zulu and I live on the farm Pipeklipberg.

We leave ourselves in the hands of the Government so that the Government may decide what is best for us, believing that the Government will do the right thing by us. We really do not see the reason for the demarcation of separate areas. We are living contentedly among the white people, and we do not want to buy land. Therefore we see no necessity for separate areas. We have always regarded this land as ours. Many of our chiefs and people have died and have been buried in this land. We have always got on well with the owners of the farms, and we see no immediate reason for altering the present condition which is satisfactory both to ourselves and the white people.

Muhlaba.] I am a Zulu and live on the farm Wagendrift. We thank you for what you have said and for the manner in which you have explained the position to us. We had hoped that we were going to be given ground which would include our present kraals. We have had no difficulties with the white people on whose farms we live and we are perfectly happy. The area that has been recommended is not satisfactory to us, for we were given this territory by our former chiefs and regarded it as our own.

Tom Magakulu.] I am a Swazi and live on the farm Vaalbank. The land I am living on was granted to us by our chief. Long before the farms were divided and granted to white people we were living in this part of the country.

We have great difficulty with farmers to whom we have to give service instead of paying rent. We give our service and get nothing in return and have trouble from time

to time with the owner or lessee of the farm. We have always loyally submitted to the Government and shall continue to do so. We shall be very thankful to have these areas, but should like to have them cut in such a manner as to include the kraals in which we have lived for generations.

Mpumulana.] We were put on this ground by our forefathers, and although it may be the intention of the Government to demarcate separate areas in which we may buy and lease land, we should much rather forego that privilege and be allowed to remain at our present kraals.

Mlonyeni.] I am a chief of the Zulu and live on the farm Welkom. The people who originally came into this country came on the authority of their chiefs, and that area that you have described is one which we have always regarded as portion of our territory. The country where our kraals are now is equally country which we regarded as our own. The area recommended is not acceptable to us. We admit that the land is legally not ours, but at the same time it is ground which we occupied before the white men came. We attach a sentimental value to this ground.

Manyosi.] I am a chief and live on Mahumba. We have come to plead humbly that the places where we have lived for a very long time may be preserved to us. When the Government appeared in this land they found us here. It was land we had occupied for some time before that.

Mosonya.] I am a headman, living on the farm Delft.

The country which you say was recommended by the Beaumont Commission is unhealthy country, and it is not the country which was apportioned to us by our former chiefs in Zululand. We are living perfectly happily under the Government. We are satisfied. Why then should we be disturbed.

Mokopi.] I am an Induna. We have heard the word of the Government. We humbly submit ourselves. If this is the will of the Government, we submit. If the Government has decided upon separate areas from the white people we are perfectly satisfied provided the Government will grant us the ground upon which we live at the present time. We look to the Government and hope for justice.

Welkom Police Station, Piet Retief, 2nd January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and COMMANDANT OPPERMAN.

COLIN STANLEY WINTER, CHRISTOPHER LEIBBRANDT BRESLER: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. Winter.] I am a storekeeper, living on the farm Delft in this district. I have lived there three years.

Mr. Bresler.] I am a farmer and company agent and have lived here twenty-six years. We know the Beaumont area.

Mr. Winter.] With regard to the area I want to confirm what the natives have just told you that it is very unhealthy in the low-lying parts. You cannot get a native to go down there at this time of the year. The low country in the Pietersburg district is very similar. There are natives living there now. They are alright. There are high parts in the area—on the mountain ridges.

Mr. Bresler.] The high ground extends as far as Beginsel. East of that is the bush-veld. As far as Beginsel it is quite healthy. Half of the area is healthy but the healthy farms have as many natives as they can carry.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that that country is sufficient for the natives of this district.

Mr. Bresler.] I consider it has as many natives now as it can carry. I am agent for the New Scotland Land Company, and ten of our farms are included in the native area. They are all healthy but very stony, and they have as many natives as they can carry.

Chairman.] If that is your view, what extension of the area do you recommend?

Mr. Bresler.] The line from Witkoppies 59 to Zaaiplaats 16. There are a large number of natives living there now as rent-paying squatters and labour-tenants. And there are not many white people. The farms are winter farms.

Chairman.] Do you not think the people of the district would oppose the inclusion of those farms?

Mr. Bresler.] Yes, they would oppose it, but in order to make adequate and suitable provision for the natives that area should be added. All the chiefs here to-day would fall into that area. That is, practically all the natives under tribal rule would fall into that area.

Chairman.] It is said that a large proportion of the proposed native area can be cultivated.

Mr. Bresler.] Not the Company farms.

Chairman.] How much can be cultivated?

Mr. Bresler.] The Company farms are no good for agriculture. They are stock farms. The natives had cattle in former years, but very little now. They live chiefly on their mealies. They all go to the Rand. They all plough, but since the war they have never grown enough food to keep themselves.

The Zulu is largely a cattle man. The country is suitable for cattle.

Chairman.] Would it not be possible for them to keep their cattle below and live on the heights?

Mr. Bresler.] There would not be sufficient room. It is all splendid cattle country. It will carry a fairly large number of cattle, certainly all the cattle belonging to the natives. My point is that the natives having lived on the middle veld for a considerable time would be loth to go to that area.

Mr. Winter.] Most of them say they would not mind the Government moving them if they were given a suitable place.

Mr. Bresler.] We have about 400 kraals on fifteen farms belonging to my Company within and outside the area. All the chiefs who spoke to-day are tenants on these farms.

Pretoria, 6th February, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and Mr. BOLTMAN.

JAMES GOSSLAND: Examined by Chairman.

I live in the Ermelo district, and am Manager of the New Scotland Land Company which is interested in the proposed native area in the Piet Retief district. I am here to represent the Company. It is a Company duly registered in South Africa and a large number of the shareholders live in the Transvaal.

Chairman.] What is your view of area 20?

Mr. Gossland.] My view is that it is quite unsuitable for the purpose intended. One half of it, that is, the top portion is practically over-populated already. The natives are practically all Zulus, and are rent-paying squatters—tenants of my Company. For twenty-five years they paid us 10s. a year, and are allowed to graze as many cattle as they like.

Chairman.] How long have the natives been there?

Mr. Gossland.] I have been here 27 years, and they were there long before that. They came in I think at the time of the Zulu war, and live under tribal conditions.

Chairman.] What would be your proposal?

Mr. Gossland.] Ten of our farms are already included, viz., Whitecliff, Mozaan, Draaiwater, Crows Nest, Kortnek, Aapieshoek, Rosendal, Umkwakwani, Spekboom, and Lands End. Now those farms are closely settled by natives to-day. Beginsel marks the point at which the country drops to the bushveld.

Chairman.] From Kranskop to Zwartkop downwards, what is the country like?

Mr. Gossland.] Very unhealthy, malarious. There are a few natives here but only where the water comes out of the hills. The moment it comes to the bushveld it disappears, coming out again in pools, and it is only in the neighbourhood of these pools that you find natives squatting. There is very little cultivation.

The natives in the lower end are Zulu intermarried with Swazi.

The total native population on our farms would be about 2,000 souls.

Our farms along the Pongola are not healthy. The natives are gradually working up towards the Assegai. The tendency is to come out of the area. They could get no crops down below, and they had locusts for several years.

We have five farms falling outside the area—Klipwal, Altona, Prudentia, Gunsteling, and Pipeklipberg. The Company has owned these farms for 28 years. There are minerals on Klipwal, and also indications on Kortnek and Altona. Gold, that is, but there is no likelihood of its being exploited within the next few years. Klipwal has been worked and abandoned owing to conditions in the country. The difficulties of transport are up against it as a mining proposition.

We have natives living on these farms outside the area. They are solely occupied by natives. They have lived there from forty to fifty years. They are chiefly Zulu and pay us the same as the natives inside the area.

The farms Delft and Welkom belong to the Company represented by Mr. Gillespie. Both those farms are solely occupied by natives. There are a large number of natives.

I think the proposed native area inadequate and unsuitable for native purposes.

My Company is opposed to the Bill unless the farms are expropriated. The natives down there are not the class to buy. The natives want to get out. That is the general tendency. If you extended the area in the direction of the Assegai there would be more

chance of their buying. It is much better country No comprehensive Irrigation scheme could be undertaken there. It is country more suited to native occupation than to white—good both for agriculture and stock. It is exceptionally fine for stock. To make it really a success you would have to extend the area a good many miles, taking in practically the whole of Ward Assegaai. Perhaps it might do to extend it up to a line running from Witkoppies in a direct line to Zaaiplaats.

The farms between that line and the western boundary of area 20 belong to private individuals and to companies. Private are Witkoppies, Confidence, Schaapkraal, Zaaiplaats, Mantongal, Bongaspoort, Oranjedal, and Vergenoegheid. Of the last three only Bongaspoort is occupied by white people—also Vergenoegheid. Warmbad is a Government farm. The natives on these farms are labour-tenants. There are a fair number of them. Generally all the farms are used for winter grazing. Witkoppies is beneficially occupied, and also Confidence. Five or six farms are occupied by Europeans in that area. Otherwise it is almost entirely occupied by natives who have lived there thirty or forty years.

Chairman.] We have had witnesses who have said that any addition to the proposed native area in the Piet Retief district would be prejudicial to the farmers on the higher levels of the Piet Retief and Wakkerstroom districts who use that country for winter grazing. What is your view?

Mr. Gossland.] I cannot very well speak on that question. The opening up of Swaziland has certainly relieved the pressure to some extent. That is, in the concessions. Farmers have no difficulty in securing winter grazing in Swaziland. Swaziland approximates in quality of grass to this area. I would point out that the grazing on the farms immediately outside the area is very much better than within the area.

Chairman.] I take it your Company would have no objection to these farms falling into the area, provided a time limit were placed on expropriation?

Mr. Gossland.] No, I do not think they would. I put in a letter addressed by the Secretary of my Company to the Secretary for Native Affairs.

Chairman.] Would you say that farming, actual farming within the area you propose as an addition is such that any prejudice would arise to the few European farmers in that area, if it were finally included in the native area?

Mr. Gossland.] Yes, it would prejudice their interests.

Chairman.] In what way?

Mr. Gossland.] Well, will the farms be expropriated? (Chairman explains the provisions of the Bill). The three months provided for in the Bill is I think far too short. I should prefer to see the period extended to six months or even longer.

One of the main objections we have is to the restricted sales. The natives here are not the class of native who will buy land especially land down there, and it is most unlikely that natives from other districts would buy. Our natives are half agricultural half pastoral. Most of them go to the mines.

Chairman.] Can you tell us whether a larger proportion of squatters than of labour-tenants go to the mines?

Mr. Gossland.] More squatters go. They are not so hampered as the labour-tenants.

Chairman.] What number of morgen in that area do you consider necessary to sustain a native family of five?

Mr. Gossland.] I should say 4 to 5 morgen.

Chairman.] How many morgen do you require to graze a beast in that area?

Mr. Gossland.] That is rather difficult to say. I can tell you the total number of cattle on our farms. There are about 3,000 large stock and 5,000 small stock on the whole of our farms inside and outside the area

Chairman.] Are there more natives living on your farms outside than inside the area?

Mr. Gossland.] I should say they were much about the same.

There is one point I should like to draw your attention to. The native down there is not of the class that buys land. The other natives living on the high veld will certainly never go down there to buy. With the extension suggested by me there would be more probability of their doing so.

I do not know whether you know that all that ground is parcelled off among the chiefs living in that area. A native will not go into the area of a chief unless he gets that chief's permission to do so. The chiefs down there have more power over the native than the white man has.

Chairman.] In your memorandum submitted to the Secretary for Native Affairs you state that if this license money in respect of the native squatter is levied it is your intention to throw these natives on the hands of the Government.

Mr. Gossland.] That is the only thing we can do. We have been in the habit of charging 10s. a hut, and have had difficulty in recovering even that. If we were charged with this license money we should have to collect it from the native. The position would then be practically impossible. We cannot show any philanthropy to the native. We must get rid of him. There is dipping going on and there are dipping fees to recover as well. We should never be able to recover. Our only alternative is to give them notice.

Chairman.] Where would the natives go if you did get rid of them?

Mr. Gossland.] A few might go to where their relations are. The larger number would be inclined to come out. They would spread themselves over the farms as labour-tenants. I think there will be some trouble because they wil' not want to go back and they will not want to shift. They are very well ordered and peaceable natives now. I do not think the natives understand the position. Those natives there are not on the same footing as the natives of the Ermelo district who understand the Act very much better.

I do not know whether my Company will be in favour of my suggestions, but I make them believing they will afford a solution.

The normal rainfall in the proposed native area is 10 to 12 inches. There is more rain towards Piet Retief. The natives very seldom get crops. A portion of the additional area I recommend is good for tree-planting—better for wattle than for gums. The rainfall is not quite good enough for gums.

Ermelo, 7th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and Mr. BOLTMAN.

CHARLES GRIFFITH: Examined by Chairman.

I am magistrate and native commissioner for the district of Ermelo. I have occupied that post for two years. Before that I was magistrate and native commissioner for the district of Wakkerstroom, and prior to that native commissioner for the Western Transvaal. I had been appointed to the last-named post from Basutoland in 1902 after eighteen years service in that administration.

The native population of this district is about 30,000.

Chairman.] Are the majority of these labour-tenants or rent-paying squatters?

Mr. Griffith.] The majority—quite 90 per cent.—are labour-tenants.

Chairman.] What is the term of service?

Mr. Griffith.] It varies. Generally the period is three months, in consideration of which they get land to cultivate and grazing for a few stock. The women work as well.

There are a number of coal mines in this district which employ a certain amount of native labour. They are not local natives. Spitzkop get their labour from Johannesburg, and the same is true of Breyten. Belleview get a lot of labour from Swaziland. A few local boys are recruited also.

Chairman.] Is there any deficiency of native labour on the farms?

Mr. Griffith.] At certain seasons of the year—when shearing and reaping is in progress—farmers complain of a shortage. Ordinarily the position is satisfactory.

Swazis preponderate in the district. There are a few Zulu and a sprinkling of Basuto—also a few from Middelburg. The Basuto have only been here since the war. They came from the Free State. They are more or less detribalised.

Chairman.] How long have the Swazis been in this country?

Mr. Griffith.] A very long time. They tell me that their forefathers have been buried in the district. I think the large majority have not been here more than twenty-four years.

Chairman.] In the event of these various classes of natives wishing to buy or lease land in the Transvaal where do you think they would be likely to go? What part of the country would be acceptable to them for residential purposes? Would they be prepared to go to high veld areas approximating to this?

Mr. Griffith.] No, I do not think so. I do not think they would shift. If faced by a liability of £7 the Swazis might perhaps return to their own country. Economically that would be rather unfortunate because they are our main source of labour supply.

Chairman.] Is there any ground owned by natives in this district?

Mr. Griffith.] There are some natives who own land at Spitzkop, also at Witbank. They are Swazis and Mapochas mixed. They have individual title and free-hold. The properties are subdivided into lots.

Chairman.] Are you in favour of the creation of native areas in this district?

Mr. Griffith.] No. I think the land in this district is too valuable. There is no available land to declare as a native area.

Chairman.] Are you in favour of the creation of areas to meet the requirements of high veld natives should they wish to buy or lease land?

Mr. Griffith.] You see, you cannot avoid disturbing white interests. As soon as natives buy ground all the surrounding ground depreciates. White people object to having natives as neighbours. Even if you expropriated areas, there would still be objections, because such areas would adjoin white people's property. My experience of the low veld is that the ground there would not depreciate to the same extent as on the high veld.

Chairman.] Suppose you found a piece of country which geographically lends itself to the purposes of a native area, would you still say that there should be no area on the high veld?

Mr. Griffith.] Under those conditions I should have no objection. If there is a natural boundary, like a mountain, for instance, the scheme would be all right A river would not be sufficient.

A native would have to pay enormous sums to buy land on the high veld, and he would not be able to meet his liabilities.

Chairman.] Under a scheme of expropriation of course you could eliminate all that?

Mr. Griffith.] But there would be an awful uproar from white people on the high veld: I do not think there would be the same objection in high veld areas where there are only a few white people. There was a great deal of trouble about the farms Daggakraal and Driepan in the Wakkerstroom district when these were purchased by natives.

Chairman.] Is it not undesirable to have the natives so close to town as at Spitzkop and Witbank?

Mr. Griffith.] No, they supply labour to the town. The natives have not been buying plots there since the Act of 1913.

This is a very progressive district. Agriculture prevails to the west with a little stock-farming. Towards the east and the Swaziland border it is almost exclusively stock-farming. Most of the farms are personally and beneficially occupied. That is not the case in the Wakkerstroom district. Below the Berg the farms are reserved for winter grazing and labour-supply. Right away to Standerton farmers are supplied with labour. The majority of natives in that area are Swazis. The greater portion of them have been there about the same time as those in this district.

Stuurman's Location was granted to the chief and tribe for services rendered to the Boer Government. It is a scheduled area under Act 27 of 1913, but is not contemplated as such in the Bill. I do not see why it should not be retained as a native location.

I am not in favour of the provision of any additional native area in the Ermelo or Wakkerstroom districts. If high veld areas can be found elsewhere away from a settled white population I see no reason why provision should not be made.

The most popular form of labour is that of ninety days' service. I certainly think that form of labour should be conserved. I am not in favour of the license of 10s. per male adult. I see no reason for it, but for purposes of control I should be in favour of a small registration fee.

According to the Bill as now drafted a labour-tenant cannot move from farm A. to farm B. I consider that most prejudicial to farming operations. If I have no use for the boy but my neighbour can use him, why should he not be able to do so, or, on the other hand, why should the native be forced to reside on a farm where he is not required?

Chairman.] Do the natives here when they have completed their term of service go to industrial centres for employment?

Mr. Griffith.] A few do.

Chairman.] Have you any experience of natives going to Johannesburg and remaining there for four or five years?

Mr. Griffith.] We have had cases, but they are the exception rather than the rule.

Both the Swazis and the Zulus are pastoral rather than agricultural. Since I have been in this part of the country I have noticed very little improvement in their methods of agriculture except that they use the plough more largely instead of the hoe. As a general rule it is part of the terms of a native's engagement that he shall have land to plough and that the master shall give him oxen with which to cultivate. Without that facility it would depend upon his financial position whether he ploughed or not.

The whole of this district is not high veld. We drop down to Amsterdam from here. The altitude there would be about the same as at Piet Retief.

The altitude at Ermelo is 5,800 feet. The rainfall is 32 inches.

Chairman.] Do you know anything of the conditions in Swaziland? Do they approximate to the high veld?

Mr. Griffith.] No, Swaziland is middle veld. Taking a line from Piet Retief you get exactly the same type of country as you find in the proposed native area 20 right away past Lebombo.

There is one other point not strictly in your terms of reference upon which I should like to say something, that is with regard to the application of certain portions of the Draft Ordinance to native areas only. I think that such facilities as coming to our courts for the settlement of Lobola cases should be afforded to natives in the white areas also. Otherwise there would be a great deal of dissatisfaction among the natives. You would break up their social life. They have a very good law in the Transkei. There they do not recognise Lobola marriages, but if such a marriage is registered and a small fee paid it is possible to appeal to our courts. I think some such form might be adopted with advantage here in non-native areas.

If this Bill becomes law a very large number of natives will find themselves in the non-native area, and I think that, so far as their laws and customs are concerned they

should receive equality of treatment with the natives who find themselves in the native areas.

Chairman.] Do you think it would be more in the interests of the country and more generally acceptable to all sections of the community if instead of licensing the native he were made to pay merely a registration fee? In that case you do not bring any pressure to bear upon him to leave the country.

Mr. Griffith.] The farming community would undoubtedly benefit. So far as registration is concerned the employer would make it his business to pay the fee. I am quite satisfied that squatting diminishes in any case from year to year, and is being gradually converted into labour-tenancy as the country is taken up by Europeans.

Ermelo, 7th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and Mr. BOLTMAN.

WILLIAM RICHARD COLLINS: Examined by Chairman.

I reside at Ermelo. I have lived for fifteen years in this district and am its representative in the House of Assembly.

The native population of this district is, so far as I know, 30,000, composed mostly of Swazis and Zulus. The two races do intermarry but not to any great extent. There are a few Mapoch natives, but Swazis preponderate. The Swazis started coming into this country about twenty-five to thirty years ago after the Europeans had settled the country. The majority of these natives would be classed as servants on the ninety-days basis. Many of them give as much as six months' service and more. A great many of the farmers are now paying wages ranging from a third to a half, and the rest is made up in land and grazing rights.

Chairman.] Is there a tendency among the farmers to pay a full wage instead of giving land?

Mr. Collins.] They would do it gladly, but labour-tenancy is the most acceptable form of service to the natives. A native would rather have the right to cultivate land and certain limited grazing rights than work for a full wage. His residence is chiefly the great consideration with him.

Chairman.] What would be the effect if the Bill became law and the native squatter is faced with a liability at the end of three years of paying £7, that is £3 in respect of the license, £2 native tax, and £2 as rent? Would he be prepared to pay it?

Mr. Collins.] No, I think the effect would be that the squatters would spread themselves over the farms more than they do at present—as ordinary labourers that is.

Chairman.] Is the farmer in a position economically to employ them as labourers?

Mr. Collins.] I hold the opinion that the labour-tenancy class will be extended to cover the labourer as we know him here. The distinction however is unnecessary for practical purposes. The only class of native that I would bring under labour-tenancy is the one who gives three months' labour at shearing and reaping seasons. In the case of the casual labourer I should make him a labour-tenant but not necessarily insist upon his paying the fee contemplated in the law. I think that fee is unnecessary so far as the labour-tenant is concerned.

Chairman.] Do you not think that, as a matter of broad policy, it would be better to register him and say in his case that if he wishes to leave the farm and take tenancy elsewhere he may do so, but only in the native area, but if he wishes to move into the native area or become a labour-tenant in a non-native area, he may do so without let or hindrance?

Mr. Collins.] Yes, that may be so.

Chairman.] Do you not think the position of the white man becomes very much stronger and more justified if we say "Now, you are here as a native squatter. If you are prepared to buy or lease land you can go into certain areas and do so, but we are not going to bring compulsion to bear in the shape of prohibitive taxes"?

Mr. Collins.] Well, personally I would not enforce prohibitive taxes if that is the great objection with the natives. I think that in any case the economic conditions would tend towards farmers driving natives off their farms if they got no valuable consideration for their living there. If the tax is objected to and we could satisfy the natives by withdrawing it I should let it go.

Chairman.] We have it in evidence that a large number of these natives on the high veld are not indigenous to the Transvaal. Now these people if faced with this very high taxation may elect to leave the country. That would, economically be a very unfortunate thing for the farmers would it not?

Mr. Collins.] No doubt, it would.

Chairman.] As farms are taken up a gradual conversion of the squatter into the labour-tenant takes place. If it is attempted to hasten the process by means of this taxation the white man is going to suffer is he not?

Mr. Collins.] Yes, undoubtedly, and I should like to add that the native will suffer too.

Chairman.] Our evidence shows that the native living on the white man's farm is a better product than the native living under tribal rule.

Mr. Collins.] I agree, and I have no doubt that it would be repugnant to such a native to hark back to the tribal condition.

Chairman.] That being so, even though a large number of natives from Swaziland and Zululand filtered back to their respective countries for the purpose of acquiring residence, a proportion nevertheless would remain?

Mr. Collins.] Certainly.

Chairman.] Now, in the case of these natives, do you not think that some adequate and suitable provision might be made for them in an area approximating to the high veld—provided the interests of the farming community were not materially disturbed?

Mr. Collins.] Yes, certainly, if possible. The class of native I have in mind would not go to the low veld as we know the low veld. Having lived up here for twenty-five years they have accustomed themselves to the climatic conditions of this country and would suffer to some extent if they went to the low veld, but I do not think they would suffer to the extent that some people imagine. When the white man goes to the low veld he is not so immune as the native is generally speaking. Still it would be very distasteful to the native to go. They would not go if they could avoid it. It would be better, if possible, to provide areas for them approximating in health conditions and soil to the high veld.

Chairman.] As a matter of policy would you be in favour of selecting a high veld area contiguous to the proposed native areas?

Mr. Collins.] Yes, I should.

Chairman.] Have you thought over these neutral areas which form part of our terms of reference?

Mr. Collins.] Yes. I may say straight away that the Beaumont Commission of which I was a member would have found its task much easier if it had been allowed to define neutral areas. We found that our terms of reference prohibited us from doing that. I certainly think it would tend to ease matters if such areas could be established.

Chairman.] Would there not be a danger of prolonging the agony?

Mr. Collins.] There would be that danger, of course, but one must choose the lesser of two evils, and one does feel that there are certain parts of the country where one could make both black and white more satisfied with conditions, if one were allowed to establish neutral areas.

Chairman.] We have thought of neutral areas in connection with this high veld question. We might for instance find a suitable high veld area where there are (say) thirty to thirty-five farmers living. Now the majority of white people object to the expropriation clause because there is no time limit. The advantage of a neutral area is this that we can place whatever restrictions we please upon natives in that area, but if it is once declared a native area there is no question of restricting any class of native who may want to go in there and buy or lease land. On the other hand the white man is not subjected to the long and painful process of selling land which would obtain in a native area. The scheme we have thought of for neutral areas is briefly this. Let the white owner sell his farm to any other white man without let or hindrance, but once he has sold to a native that native shall not be allowed to sell to a white man, so that in course of time that area becomes native automatically without repressive measures.

Mr. Collins.] My view is that if any area that you may have in mind as a neutral area is not exceptionally large it would be better to expropriate it right away notwithstanding the difficulties of expropriation. Even such a neutral area as you suggest would have the effect of depreciating the land, and if it is not a very large area I should be in favour of expropriating it and calling it a restricted native area. It would be all Government land in that case, and Government could restrict whatever natives it wished from coming into the area.

Chairman.] We have one or two areas which might be regarded as contentious areas, and we thought we might overcome this difficulty by declaring them neutral areas. The thing that sticks in the owner's mind is that he has a sword of Damocles suspended over his head in the shape of the expropriation clause.

Mr. Collins.] What I have said applies of course on the assumption that it is a very small area. A large area cannot be expropriated. If such an area could be expropriated it would certainly mend matters, and I think that by law you could lay down what natives are to be allowed to go into such area.

By not enforcing this squatter's licence you might not make the Bill as strong as it might otherwise be, for I do not believe that the natural increase in the value of property will effect the same thing in the end. Still, with the idea of doing away with the objections of a lot of white people and most of the natives, I should certainly sacrifice that provision in the Bill.

[Witness at this stage expressed a desire to consult the Bill, and on doing so and finding that there was no provision prohibiting rent-paying by squatters, wished to modify the views previously expressed, stating that in order to stop squatting which, in his opinion, was a very great evil, the licence provisions should be retained. He thought those provisions were absolutely essential.]

Chairman.] Do you think the incidence of the licence is on the owner or on the native?

Mr. Collins.] It is on the native, but he has his remedy. He can go to the native area.

I am of opinion that there should be no little black islands dotted about the white area.

I do not agree that each district should bear its own burden in the shape of native areas.

I should like to emphasise the point that you must consider the interests of the white man very carefully, because you must have his support in carrying out this principle. I think that until recently we had the greater portion of the landed proprietors in the Transvaal outside of the companies on our side. Generally speaking the public of the Transvaal was satisfied. That feeling however has undergone a change owing to agitation arising from insufficient knowledge of the real provisions of the Bill.

Chairman.] I take it you feel that it presses very hardly upon the owner of a farm within a native area to have expropriation suspended over him for a considerable time or left indefinite. Well, how would you propose to remedy that?

Mr. Collins.] That is a very difficult question. I should like to say that the Government should immediately expropriate all the land in the native areas, but that of course is outside the region of practical politics. I think I should amend the section in question. I should make it easier in the first place to sell to a white owner. I should say "sell to whom you please" but once a coloured man is owner I should not allow him to sell again to a white man. And I should provide for expropriation not only for land settlement purposes but for any purpose. The white man should I think be exempted from the procedure laid down by the Bill when he wishes to sell. I think the expropriation provisions in the Bill are next to impracticable, and that it is almost impossible for five natives to buy a farm.

Chairman.] Is there a tendency among the natives to move back to their own territory?

Mr. Collins.] I do not know of a single instance.

I have no idea of the average annual increase of the natives. The mortality is not to my knowledge very high. I have had under my notice several cases of Miners' Phthisis, and I think people do not realise how many natives die of that disease. My experience is that natives come from the mines and spread the disease. I think that the native affairs officials on the Rand should notify the magistrates concerned of any natives returning from the mines with the disease. I have a couple of cases on my own farm. There is of course a very great danger to the white man as well. Infection may be spread among one's family in this way.

Commandant Opperman.] You say you are of opinion that the land in the native areas should be expropriated immediately?

Mr. Collins.] No. I think that, in general, it would be a good thing if the Government could expropriate and pay a fair price. The same thing would apply to the natives in the white area. Of course it is impracticable. The thing is too big.

Commandant Opperman.] If you put a man's farm into the native area you diminish its value because you leave him only one kind of purchaser?

Mr. Collins.] Yes, but you cannot get away from that. The general opinion that I have heard expressed is that we will be satisfied if the Government will buy us out and let us buy another farm. I admit that there will be many cases where people will be dissatisfied if the Government were to expropriate immediately, but the general opinion is that you must expropriate at once and not leave it indefinite. I have no doubt that in many cases farmers will suffer damage by expropriation. My point is that the public will be better pleased if expropriation takes place at once.

Commandant Opperman.] Are you acquainted with the bushveld in the neighbourhood of this district?

Mr. Collins.] Yes.

Commandant Opperman.] If these bushveld farms are included in a native area will not the farmers who hold them for grazing purposes be gravely prejudiced?

Mr. Collins.] They will be prejudiced, certainly.

Commandant Opperman.] I understood you to say to the Chairman just now that it would be an advantage if the native areas were in a large and compact piece, and that little black islands were a bad thing.

Mr. Collins.] That is the very object of the Bill. If you had a little black island in every district, the Bill would be useless.

Commandant Opperman.] Can you tell me then why Parliament or the Government provided that every district should give an area to the natives?

Mr. Collins.] But that is not so. There was no such idea. The Bill arose in this way. The natives had begun to buy land very largely, and people began to clamour for the prohibition of the sale of land to natives. The Cape would not agree to that, and

then it was suggested that a line should be drawn and that the natives should be allowed to buy on one side and the white men on the other. If there were just two large compact areas it would certainly be more in conformity with the spirit of the law.

If we do not pass this law we must repeal the Act of 1913.

Wilhelmus Frederik Uys.] I am a farmer and live at Ermelo. I wish to give evidence on the Barberton area with special reference to the country in the neighbourhood of the White River. I understand there is some danger of that area falling into the native area. If you are going to make a native area there it should not extend further west than the boundary of the Sabi Ward. The area west of that line will be very thickly occupied by the whites in the near future. For the security of the white population I would even suggest that the areas should not extend further west than the Logies River. There is plenty of water east of the Logies. The Logies is not a permanent stream. The country to the east of the Logies is excellent. Part of it is rocky, but the greater portion of it is really good. I cannot say whether it is as good as area 19 or area 18.

I do not know the Game Reserve in the Lydenburg district. In the Barberton district it is excellent. Personally I should not mind living there if the Government gave me a farm there.

Crocodilepoort is not as healthy as the country north of Joubertshoop. I have not heard of any cases of fever.

I should not like to see the native area further west than the boundary of the Sabi Ward. In the area I want excluded, there is a farm I want to buy. It is a farm near Logogotu. I am not going to buy it however if it is to be included in the native area.

By Mr. Boltman.] The area between the boundary of the Sabi Ward and the Logies River is excellent for winter grazing. It should be reserved for the use of the white people.

Ermelo, 8th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

Also about two-hundred natives.

After the magistrate and the Chairman had addressed the gathering the following representative natives were heard:

Solomon Tutu.] I am a representative of the South African Native National Congress. Our Congress has fully considered this new Law. The sore point with us is this proposed segregation between black and white. We ask that this matter be postponed until twelve months after the war. Then upon the matter being brought up again it could be dealt with by meetings of our people and the thing decided one way or the other. Another point to which we wish to draw the attention of the committee is that there has been no land set apart for natives on the high veld.

Joseph Hlubi.] I am a Swazi and representative of the South African Native National Congress.

The Chairman has explained to us very fully the circumstances under which we are to live in future. It is repugnant to us that we should be made to live apart from the white people. We want to live among them. Before you white people came, there was a great deal of bloodshed and trouble among us. Then when you came, we lived among you and we became men. We rose in the scale of civilisation, and instead of fighting among ourselves we became well ordered under the rule of the white man. The white man showed us the light. Now you wish to remove us from the light and make us stay apart by ourselves. I say chief, that when the English were subject to the Romans and if the Romans had segregated them, they would not be what they are to-day. You wish to separate us from you so that we may not have the same opportunities of advancement as you have had. That is why this proposed legislation is not acceptable to us. You want to keep us underfoot. That is why we say this Bill must remain in abeyance because it is killing us.

There is another point in connection with the control of our people who remain in non-native areas. The provisions relating thereto are very unpleasant. What we object to is that a native and his family living on a white man's farm should have to be registered. That man is no longer free. He would never be able to rid himself of the shackles of the white man. There are many little things like that to which I could refer. The white people should protect us and help us, because we need them. We need to live among you to get the light that you have had.

John Msimang.] Our request is that the Government should give us the right to possess land in the Ermelo district. I have ground on Spitzkop. My request is that the Government should allow us to buy ground in the whole of the district among the white people. The native wants to live among the white people. We ask the committee to receive our

request to-day that we be allowed to live among the white people. When a father has given his child cattle he does not go behind his back and take them away again. Our father gave us the right to purchase land now our father turns round and asks us to give up that right. His children say "No."

Rooikop Sheba.] I am an Induna of the Ermelo district, and live on the farm Mooiplaats.

[To the natives: I am surprised that you have elected men to represent your views who have not my knowledge or the knowledge of many of us. I hear that Tutu claims to speak for us. I deny that.]

We have come to represent our views to the committee, but I wish first of all to put certain questions to the committee. I appear before you but I did not know where the areas were. I had never gone into this question of ground. I grew up among the white people for whom I worked, and even now I work for them.

What I want to say is that I am surprised that our daughters and our wives are allowed to board trains at will and leave their kraals without the authority of their fathers and guardians. Secondly there is the question of Lobola. We wish the Lobola system to continue the same as before.

I am not prepared to make any representations with regard to native areas because it is a matter that I have not previously gone into. I should like to be given the opportunity of meeting my people and discussing the matter with them. I do not want to make a separate representation as an individual.

John Tabeti.] I am a Swazi and live at Carolina. I was elected by the headmen to appear before the committee.

I am surprised that we natives are not in agreement before you. It appears that there is no union among us. There are many important people in Ermelo. It is surprising to me that they did not know before what the provisions of this Bill are. I thought that this had been made known among the natives and that they had agreed to have their representatives. The induna who has just spoken has no right to voice our views. He is not a chief.

We do not accept the areas recommended by the first commission, because the ground is low-lying, infertile and unhealthy. We wish to have the ground upon which we were born. We do not wish to leave it. All of us say that. The Government being in authority has power to give us ground to suit our purposes.

Mashosha.] I am a Swazi and live at Steynsdorp.

I notice that there is no union among the natives of the Ermelo district. I think there ought to be a meeting of the natives now that the Chairman has explained the position and that they should come forward later and express their views. Some of us know about this matter, and others do not. We should all retire and come to some understanding.

Simon Sibama.] I am a member of the committee of the South African Native National Congress. I agree with what has been said by our representatives.

Bonifacius.] I am a Basuto. I was born in the Free State and have been here three years.

There are a few of us here who own land. Where I am at New Ermelo there are about fifty of us. Before we had finished buying, the law came and prevented us from buying. We want these stands to be thrown open. It is now three years that this has been going on. The difficult thing about these meetings is that we go back just as stupid as we came.

In this question of parting the ground between black and white there is only one thing which presses hardly upon us. We do not object to the principle of the thing, but what we do find hard is that we should have to go to country in which we are unable to live because it is unhealthy. We want the Government to give us ground on the high veld where it is possible for us to live. Things will not come right if we have to go into the low veld and into Swaziland. We should be glad if the Government gave us ground on the high veld. That is the whole thing. We do not want to go into the unhealthy parts of the country.

The meeting adjourned at this stage to give the natives an opportunity of consulting further. On the resumption the following persons were heard:

Rooikop Sheba.] I am not in favour of having the ground cut up. We should like to remain as we have been in the past. I speak for those of my people who agreed to the resolution just taken.

Joseph Hlubi spoke to the same effect, and the meeting closed.

CAREL GERT STEENKAMP: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer living at Klipfontein in the district of Ermelo. I wish to give evidence on general lines and also with special reference to the district of Ermelo. I think that there is no room for a native area in the Ermelo district.

Chairman.] What is your view on the point of each district bearing its own burden?

Mr. Steenkamp.] If that is so, then of course there must be an area here. It is most undesirable to have a native area here.

Chairman.] What is your opinion with regard to natives who are rich enough to buy or lease land? Where should they buy or lease?

Mr. Steenkamp.] They could buy in the other native areas, portions of which are high veld, for instance in Lydenburg and Middelburg. White men often leave the high veld to go and live in the low veld.

I have heard that a certain area in the neighbourhood of the Sabi is going to be recommended as a native area. I have been in that area the White River area. It is very fertile, and there are places with a good supply of water. Low veld soil is the most fertile of all—infinitely more fertile than the high veld.

The poor white question could be solved by retaining Area 19 for the white people.

I know a little about the Sabi Reserve. I have never been in the heart of it. I cannot say how the area ought to be cut to provide for the natives of Area 19. I should put them into Sections E. and F. but if you say that the white people are opposed to that I make no suggestion at all. Area 19 is an ideal settlement scheme for poor whites.

With regard to the Steelpoort there is a great future there, and I think the land should be reserved for the white people. Most of the people sow on the right bank. There is very little done on the left bank.

I consider that no part of the country which is in any way suitable for white people should be reserved for natives.

Bethal, 10th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

Also about one hundred natives.

After the Chairman had addressed the gathering the following representative natives were heard:

Stanton Mzoyi.] I am a duly elected representative of the natives here present. I hand in a letter which represents the views of the meeting.

[See Annexure 19.]

Makomani Mutswayi.] I represent Chief Pangwani of Mapoch's Tribe. We should like the committee to restore us to our own ground- the ground from which we were scattered.

Chairman.] Do you think you will be able to live in Mapochs?

Makomani.] Yes.

Chairman.] Are you sure that you can live in the low country. The majority of these people say that they cannot.

Makomani.] My only answer is that we were scattered from that place and we want to live there. We cannot live here. There are many thousands of our people living in the towns and the surrounding country. We plead to be allowed to return to our country. We shall be perfectly satisfied if we may return there.

Tabetu.] I was born in Swaziland. I should like to know whether one may return to one's native land. I want to return to my native land—Swaziland.

Paulus Natela.] I am the owner of Stands 8 and 9 in the township of Leslie. I am a delegate of the natives of that township. Things are not as they should be there. We have no graveyards and are obliged to bury our children on our stands. This township was handed over to us before the Native Land Act, and it should have the same rights as other townships in the district.

Then again we are not allowed to buy any more stands, though there are many vacant. We should like to be freed from that disability.

Johannes Malazi.] I am a Swazi. I am sorry to hear that the Government is going to give us areas in the far districts of the Transvaal where there is much fever. We were born in this country. We were brought up among the white people and we are here among them to-day. We thought the Government would assist us by giving us areas in the Bethal district. Our children and brothers are at the front, and now the Government has said that we shall be sent away before they return. I should like the Government to postpone this Bill until our children have returned from overseas.

The Chairman addressed the natives and the meeting then closed.

HENDRIK GERHARDUS ELARDUS ERASMUS, PIETER JOHANNES DIRK ERASMUS, RASMUS ELARDUS ERASMUS, CORNELIS JANSE ELLIS, HENDRIK PETRUS HANCKE, JACOBUS JOHANNES DE VILLIERS, THEODORUS CORNELIS JOHANNES DE VILLIERS, JOHAN DANIEL HANCKE: Examined by Chairman.

Mr. P. Erasmus.] We have not come here with any idea of discussing native areas in the Bethal district. We have come to see whether the committee wishes to hear evidence

regarding the northern portion of the Transvaal, that is, the districts of Middelburg, Pretoria, and Waterberg. Our interests there are as important to us as any of our interests here. We look upon the Pretoria district as in a sense a part of our own district. We consider that our future to a very large extent lies in those northern districts, and we wish to protect our interests there.

Mr. H. G. Erasmus.] I speak for our country and our people. If the native area should extend this side of Pokwani there will be a great deal of trouble and dissatisfaction. The area this side of Pokwani has a great future. The native area should run in the other direction. I have property there, but I am not speaking on my own account.

Mr. Vijs.] We farmers up here depend absolutely upon that area. We do not think the Beaumont line should be departed from. The area this side of Pokwani is the Trekveld for the farmers of Bethal. We cannot give it up to the natives. We want the veld along the river for the white people. I strongly support the Beaumont line.

Commandant Opperman.] We are bound to see whether there is sufficient land in the Beaumont area. Suppose we have to extend the area what would you suggest?

Mr. Vijs.] I should suggest an extension towards the Steelpoort and the Lydenburg district.

Commandant Opperman.] What do you say to the area between Pokwani and the Olifant's River?

Mr. Vijs.] We cannot agree to that. That is our cattle country. If an additional area is absolutely necessary I would suggest that an extension be made to include Leeuwkraal, Rietfontein, and Spitzkop, and thence in a direct line to the Steelpoort.

Mr. H. P. Hancke.] Is each district required to bear its own burden?

Chairman.] No, this is a South African question. There is a strong feeling among the natives and a certain section of the white people that an area should be provided for the natives who live on the high veld. Have you any suggestion to make?

Mr. Hancke.] I wish to speak only with regard to Middelburg. It is true that it is not a very large portion of the Middelburg district that it is proposed to give to the natives, but it is in my opinion as much as can possibly be given. An area might be given in the direction of the Selati Gold Fields.

We think very much more of the Olifant's River than of the land adjoining it so far as the future of our country is concerned. The Government has been busy surveying there with a view to Irrigation schemes. Every kind of produce could be grown there including coffee and sugar. There is nothing like it on the high veld. We have no such opportunities here. From Wagendrift to Krokodilheuvel the whole of the river can be used for Irrigation. It is worth millions of pounds for the future of our people. The portion I refer to now does not fall into the Beaumont area. Along the river but within the Beaumont area there is a farm of my own, but I am quite prepared to abide by the Beaumont line so far as the farms along the river north of Krokodilheuvel are concerned. I am not in favour of all the farms along the river being cut out of the Beaumont area, even though my own farm is among them. I am however very much opposed to any of the river farms south of the Beaumont line becoming part of a native area.

There is no other area in the Middelburg district that one could give to the natives.

Chairman.] Where do you think we ought to put the natives of the high veld?

Mr. Hancke.] I cannot make any suggestion on that point. There may be suitable areas in the Pietersburg district. The area referred to by Mr. Vijs might do. It would not however provide for all the high veld natives. I quite see the difficulty of providing for the high veld natives.

Mr. J. D. Hancke.] I do not want to speak of our personal interests, but rather from the point of view of the future of our people. We have interests all over the high veld. I have thought that it might perhaps be possible to cut off a native area on the high veld. There are parts of the low veld that will be infinitely more valuable in the future than the high veld, and we might find that the natives are in possession of such good land, while we are left without the same advantages. I have not thought of a suitable native area on the high veld. I would suggest an area in the plains towards Lake Chrissie between Carolina and Lake Chrissie. There the country is not particularly valuable for agriculture. The people there may have interests opposed to this suggestion. I would suggest granting an area in the high veld in preference to parting with good portions of the low veld.

Mr. J. du Villiers.] I strongly oppose any proposal to grant a native area on the high veld.

Mr. T. C. Erasmus.] So do I.

Mr. P. Erasmus.] Our feeling is that we cannot give away the river farms in the Middelburg district. Mr. Hancke has no objection to such of the river farms as fall within the Beaumont area going to the natives but I am unwilling to give them even those.

It is not only a question of water but of fertility of soil also. In the Eland's River area in the Pretoria district there are opportunities for Irrigation, and the soil is very fertile. River farms must be reserved to the white people. The native does not avail himself of Irrigation. He does not want to live on the river farms. He is afraid of the crocodiles. That shows you how much value he attaches to water, whereas the white man

depends absolutely upon water. In the absence of a map I am not in a position to make any substantive proposal as to what farms should be excluded from the Beaumont area in the Middelburg and Waterberg districts as well as the Pretoria district, but I shall furnish these particulars later. [See Annexure.] With regard to the Beaumont line I can assure you that the whole of the Middelburg, Bethal, Standerton, and Bethal districts is opposed to it so far as the river farms are concerned.

Commandant Opperman.] What do you propose with regard to Paledi's people? Must they be cut out too?

Mr. P. Erasmus.] Seeing that the natives are living there and have bought land there, we think they might have a separate location there, the river farms remaining nevertheless in the white area. The country there is fully populated by natives. The ground is good and highly cultivated. As for the natives in the Middelburg district let their reserve too be cut in such a way that the river farms are left out for the white people.

The area I suggest for the natives will not be overcrowded within the next ten years, that is, provided the natives remain on the white people's farms as they do at the present time.

I wish to emphasise again that it is out of the question for us to renounce the river farms—not under any circumstances.

Chairman.] What do you think about the Komati area?

Mr. P. Erasmus.] I do not think that should be given to the natives either. We must look to the future of our people and our country. I think the natives should be removed from there. The interests of the white people are paramount. We must be very careful not to prejudice posterity.

Pretoria, 25th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN.

Charles Maggs.] I have come here to represent my own interests with respect to the farm Vogelstruispan, No. 1896, district of Waterberg. I wanted to point out that one-half of the farm—the eastern half—is owned by the tribe of George Makapan, who now wish to purchase the western half which belongs to me. They have applied to the Government accordingly, but owing to this pending Native Affairs Administration Bill they have not obtained permission to buy. It has been recommended by the Native Affairs Department and also by the magistrate, and I want to sell. There is a proposal that that farm should fall into a proposed native area in the extreme south of the Waterberg district which is designed to link up with the Pretoria areas.

Chairman.] Do you know whether any of the farms right on the border are occupied by white people?

Mr. Maggs.] I believe there is a Mission Station and possibly a few squatters. The natives want to buy the farm collectively.

Chairman.] Do you see any objection to the inclusion of a strip of about twenty farms in the south-western corner of the Waterberg district adjoining Area 16?

Mr. Maggs.] It all depends upon the number of natives and their stock. They have a fairly large number of cattle. There are a number of natives there already. They have been making use of the grazing on my farm for some time past.

I know something of Area 16.

Chairman.] What is your opinion of that area so far as its suitability for native occupation is concerned?

Mr. Maggs.] Well, the farms there differ a good deal. There is some very good grazing and very good lands. The majority of the farms however are not suitable for white occupation.

Chairman.] Are there any feasible Irrigation schemes?

Mr. Maggs.] There is no comprehensive scheme, only a few individual ones. A few dams might be made here and there. In the middle it is more a native area than a white man's.

Chairman.] Great stress has been laid on the country as winter veld. Are there any other areas in the Pretoria district which approximate in point of altitude and pasture to Area 16.

Mr. Maggs.] Yes, the whole of the country immediately south of Area 17 affords good winter grazing.

Chairman.] Is it as good as the veld in Areas 16 and 17?

Mr. Maggs.] Yes, portions of it.

Chairman.] What about the country in the Waterberg district from Warmbaths downwards?

Mr. Maggs.] It is ideal winter veld. If farmers on the high veld in the Pretoria district were in need of winter veld, they could get good grazing there in the Waterberg district.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us by witnesses that it would be a good thing to declare a large native area extending from the point where the Matalabas cuts the Zandriviersberg to where the range eventually joins up with the Magalokwin. What do you think of that?

Mr. Maggs.] I do not know. It seems to me very drastic to push the natives out of their locations all over the country. I am in favour of taking a few areas where the natives are largely congregated. The point is that where natives already have locations and have acquired farms development should take place round those areas. In numbers of the locations the natives have lived for hundreds of years. I do not think it would be fair to drive them away.

Chairman.] Do you think it is fair to use the argument that, as the natives originally gravitated from the north, they cannot now be heard to say that they do not want to go north again?

Mr. Maggs.] No. I do not think that is fair. Just as we cannot be expected to go back to where we came from hundreds of years ago.

Chairman.] What is your opinion about artificial grasses? Can they be grown on the high veld?

Mr. Maggs.] Yes, I think so. But it does not pay to keep cattle on the high veld. There it is agriculture pure and simple.

Chairman.] What has impressed me is that you have large tracts of country in the low veld that are wholly unoccupied and that are simply reserved by high veld farmers for their stock in winter. My impression is that by growing exotic grasses and by housing you would not need these low veld farms for grazing.

Mr. Maggs.] I have farmed for many years. I should be in favour of a land-tax to prevent that. On the high veld land is very valuable. It does not pay to ranch. Climatically the high veld is not suitable and the ground is too valuable for other purposes.

Chairman.] But what about exotic grasses? Do you think they could be grown with success on the high veld in order to provide nutritious pasture?

Mr. Maggs.] Paspalum grows splendidly, but Kikuyu does not do so well except in the lower-lying parts.

Chairman.] It has been said that these exotic grasses are very much affected by frost which destroys their nutritive qualities?

Mr. Maggs.] Yes, that is so. Kikuyu grass for instance as soon as it is frost bitten becomes quite woody. That is true in the majority of cases. The solution of the question of winter grazing would be roots and hay-making. That has not been largely gone in for on the high veld, but it is bound to come.

Chairman.] How, in your opinion, could the high veld natives be disposed of?

Mr. Maggs.] Well, the high veld is absolutely a white-man's country, and you will have to be very careful in giving the natives ground there. The natives on the high veld are educated and very much in advance of other natives owing to their contact with the white man. I quite realise that some sort of provision has got to be made for these people.

Chairman.] Where could they be provided for?

Mr. Maggs.] If you took the high veld natives and put them into the low veld, you would blot out practically half of them. They are so useful, moreover, that they should stay on the high veld.

Chairman.] While it may be desirable to conserve your labour-supply on the high veld, still there will be a proportion of natives who will want to get away from service conditions and acquire fixity of tenure. Where could an area be provided for them?

Mr. Maggs.] There is no place on the high veld worth speaking of that is unoccupied.

Chairman.] Suppose a high veld area could be found in which European settlement would comparatively be very little affected?

Mr. Maggs.] If it is possible to find such an area I quite agree that it would be most desirable to give it to the natives. The high veld is a highly developed white man's country, and a very valuable country certainly more intensively occupied than any other part of the Transvaal.

Chairman.] It is generally admitted that it would be inadvisable to create little black islands within high veld areas, but supposing an area could be found which, to an appreciable extent, is already occupied by natives, and has only comparatively recently been occupied by Europeans, but approximates in health and soil conditions to the high veld, would you say such an area might be added as a means of overcoming the difficulty?

Mr. Maggs.] Yes.

Chairman.] If you will look at the map, you will see that the Secocoeni Ward in the Middelburg district is largely occupied by natives. That you will see is indicated by the green stripes. Now assuming that the European occupation is comparatively recent and that not very extensive improvements have been made, would you regard that area as a solution of the difficulty?

Mr. Maggs.] I know the Secocoeni Ward very well. I think you could take the whole of that area for natives. I think it would be suitable for high veld natives. Taking it all round it would form an ideal location for natives.

Chairman.] Have you any experience of Irrigation schemes?

Mr. Maggs.] I have considerable experience.

Chairman.] Now take the Loskop project. Would you, having regard to the character of the country, couple it with ranching, or would you regard it as entirely an Irrigation scheme.

Mr. Maggs.] I should say it was almost entirely an Irrigation scheme. For ranching you want cheap country. If you have Irrigation you should go in for intensive cultivation.

Chairman.] Would an Irrigation scheme of that description be prejudiced by its not being combined with ranching?

Mr. Maggs.] No. Because the two are totally different branches. You would naturally specialise in cultivation. Your land under Irrigation is very valuable. Of course you must have a certain amount of elbow room. I should think a strip of farms two deep from the river would be quite sufficient.

In a scheme like this where you have a native area immediately adjoining, you would have to give the natives access to the river at certain points. Or provision should be made by means of boreholes. I should prefer boreholes.

Chairman.] You will see there is a gap in the irrigable area between Rondavel and Schijnsdraai. Do you think access might be allowed the natives there?

Mr. Maggs.] I do not think that would be harmful.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the tail-end of the Irrigation scheme might be used by the natives.

Mr. Maggs.] I think the right solution would be to put down a number of boreholes in that area so as to prevent contact between black and white.

Chairman.] Do you know the area round Potgietersrust?

Mr. Maggs.] Yes.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the close proximity of Valtijn's Location to the town is a serious objection, and that either one or both of these adjoining farms might be excluded and exchanged for Biltongfontein and the surrounding farms. The soil on the farms Knapdaar and Rietfontein in Valtijn's Location is it is said better than on the farms named. What would you regard as a reasonable compensation for the farms in Valtijn's Location?

Mr. Maggs.] Tweefontein, Biltongfontein, and Rietfontein would be a fair compensation if they were added to the location in exchange for Turfspruit and Macalacalaskop.

Chairman.] Would it be necessary to exclude Turtspruit?

Mr. Maggs.] No, perhaps not. There is a stream there which can be dammed up and be of great be of great service to the town of Potgietersrust. Still the exclusion of Macalacalaskop alone would prevent contact.

The country in Area 2 is ranching country. I should value it at 12s. 6d. to 15s. a morgen. I have considerable knowledge of the value of land.

Chairman.] Would you say that if any extension of Area 2 is to be made it should be made in the Waterberg district or into the Pietersburg or Zoutpansberg districts?

Mr. Maggs.] I should say into the Zoutpansberg.

Chairman.] Is the country such that it could sustain the native population of the Waterberg and portion of the Pietersburg district?

Mr. Maggs.] I hardly think so. Here in the southern portion of the area you find very rich turf. It would depend upon whether you could get sufficient soil all over for cultivation. The normal rainfall is 16 to 18 inches. It varies very much. Perhaps I should be safer in putting the average at 12 to 14 inches.

Chairman.] Now, with regard to Area 1. It has been suggested to us that, as some of the natives have lived for nine generations to the south along the Palala River, a certain area should be added to include the farms on which they live to-day. How does that strike you? Would it prejudice the future of European settlement in that area?

Mr. Maggs.] Well, I look upon it as a ranching country pure and simple. You could safely increase the area to the south. You could go as far as Pic van Teneriffe and right across to the west. But the rainfall is very slight there, and they could not rely upon food. The natives there have been in a state of hunger for the last three years. The natives live there because it is such an excellent cattle country. They are almost entirely a pastoral people and they sustain themselves by means of their cattle.

Pretoria, 25th January, 1918.

PRESENT:

THE CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN

COLONEL FRED. HUGH DAMANT, C.B., D.S.O., and JOHN COLQUHOUN YEATS, Examined.

Colonel Damant.] I am Magistrate and Native Commissioner for the district of Lydenburg, and have occupied that post since August, 1902. During that time I have travelled

my district frequently, and know every part of it intimately. I have two sub-Native Commissioners under me, a game warden, an assistant magistrate at Belfast acting as sub-Native Commissioner, and an assistant magistrate at Pilgrim's Rest.

Chairman.] We take it you have studied the native areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission in various parts of the Transvaal particularly with reference to Area 7 which falls in your district?

Colonel Damant.] Yes.

Chairman.] What is your view as to the adequacy and suitability of that area for the native population of Lydenburg together with their increase for the next ten years to come?

Colonel Damant.] It is totally inadequate for the present population. In fact the area at present is considerably overpopulated by natives.

Chairman.] What tribes occupy Area 7?

Colonel Damant.] Bapedi, Shangaan, Zulu, Swazi, and Mbaai.

Mr. Yeats.] I am sub-Native Commissioner of Sekukuniland in the district of Lydenburg, stationed at Schoonoord. I have occupied that post for three years, but have actually been stationed at Schoonoord for 9 years. I have been in the service for fifteen years. During that time I have acted in various districts. I am particularly well acquainted with the country and conditions in the Lydenburg district and especially in my sub-district.

The Bapedi are split up into various clans, which recognise Secocoeni as Paramount Chief. Some Swazis recognise him too, though one Chief Shopian is independent. The Swazis inter-marry to some extent with Secocoeni's people.

Chairman.] Colonel Damant, you and Mr. Yeats accompanied this committee on its tour of inspection of Area 7. Now, what proportion of Area 7 falling within the Lydenburg district do you regard as arable and productive in normal seasons?

Colonel Damant.] The portion east of the Steelpoort River is known as the Baboon country, and consists of kopjes and mountains and stony ridges. What little cultivation there is is done in the pockets. On Olifantsberg there is about 1,500 morgen that is cultivable, and there may be another 300 morgen in that region—say altogether 1,800 morgen that are arable and productive in the area east of the Steelpoort. In the area west of the Lulu Mountains I should say about 30 per cent. would be arable and productive.

Chairman.] What is the rainfall in that area?

Mr. Yeats.] At Schoonoord it is about 20 inches, but the gauge is just under the mountains, where there is more rain. About the centre of the area the rainfall would be 17 to 18 inches. Towards the Olifant's it would be less—about 12 inches.

I can give you the various altitudes. They vary from 4,000 to 2,000 feet, so that climatic conditions vary considerably throughout the area.

Chairman.] What is the total native population in the Beaumont area?

Colonel Damant.] Forty-six thousand, nine hundred and sixty-nine. Outside the area 58,091, who would be required to move in the event of the Bill becoming law—that is rent-paying squatters.

Chairman.] What is the total number of natives outside the area including rent-paying squatters?

Colonel Damant.] I shall give that information a little later on.

Chairman.] You recommended a different area from that adopted by the Beaumont Commission.

Colonel Damant.] Yes. One area was the Sekukuniland area indicated by the yellow line on the map. It is bounded on the east by the Steelpoort River, on the north and north-west by the Olifant's River, south and south-west by the boundary of Geluk's Location, thence along the Middelburg boundary to the farm Ironstone, thence taking in Driekop, Droogehoek, and Steelpoortdrift up to the Steelpoort River. With the exception of the southern boundaries described, the boundaries are natural and visible ones.

Chairman.] What considerations guided you in fixing upon those lines?

Colonel Damant.] Well, first of all I took into consideration the numbers of the native population and then also the fact that the area described has been the home of the natives for generations. The whole area is malarious and it is practically waterless. I may say that, generally speaking, the crops are entirely dependent on storm-water. There are four to five perennially running streams. Of course the area looks very large on the map, but it must be taken into consideration that it comprises several ranges of large mountains such as the Lulu range and a number of others.

Chairman.] Can it be said that that is undulating country?

Colonel Damant.] No. I should certainly think not. It is rugged broken country.

Chairman.] What percentage of the Sekukuni area would be mountainous, rocky country which could not be made use of for agricultural purposes?

Colonel Damant.] About 60 per cent. to 65 per cent.—Fully that.

Chairman.] Is the mountainous area of any use for pasturing cattle?

Colonel Damant.] I think to a certain extent it is. There is not very much grazing on the mountains, but there is a little.

Chairman.] Mr. Yeats, are your natives agricultural or pastoral.

Mr. Yeats.] Mostly pastoral. In Geluk's Location they combine the two. They depend there as much upon their stock as upon their crops.

Chairman.] How much of Geluk's is cultivable?

Mr. Yeats.] In my opinion about 16 per cent.—that is arable and productive. Actually cultivated at the present moment is about 40 per cent.

Chairman.] Which is the rich portion of the Location?

Mr. Yeats.] The southern. There is more cultivable land there.

Chairman.] What is your opinion of the quality of the soil in the northern portion?

Mr. Yeats.] It is very sandy. In some parts it is productive, but in others not. Mealies are grown there and a certain amount of Kaffir-corn.

Chairman.] What is the chief drawback in that location?

Mr. Yeats.] Want of water.

Chairman.] Would the position be considerably improved it you had a large number of boreholes put down?

Mr. Yeats.] To a certain extent, yes, but I do not think you could put sufficient boreholes down to water all the stock. There are about 7,000 head of cattle and 45,000 sheep and goats to say nothing of donkeys. The extent of Geluk's is 120,174 morgen.

Chairman.] What is the pasture like?

Mr. Yeats.] The southern half is very good in parts, but the northern portion is very bad, especially the extreme north. It is very stony and very hard and nothing can exist there except a few goats. The natives round about Nkoani's have to move their cattle into the Middelburg district and also on to Company ground to the east of the Lulu for grazing purposes.

Chairman.] What is the total quantity of irrigated land apart from irrigable land on the left bank of the Steelpoort?

Mr. Yeats.] About 200 morgen.

Chairman.] How much can be irrigated?

Mr. Yeats.] About 800 morgen altogether.

Chairman.] And on the right bank?

Mr. Yeats.] About 2,000 morgen.

Chairman.] Where do the natives living to the south-west, south, and south-east of Geluk's Location water their stock?

Mr. Yeats.] Mostly out of the Location. They water their cattle on the Steelpoort. The natives on Droogehoek, Steelpoortdrift, Ironstone, Driehoek, and Aapiesboomen during the winter months water their stock on the Steelpoort to a large extent. All the natives who live between the yellow and green lines on the map water their stock on the Steelpoort, that is, in dry years. It has been dry for the last ten years.

Chairman.] Do any natives make use of the irrigated land?

Mr. Yeats.] No, it is all privately owned except on Boschkloof, where the owner Webb allows his natives to irrigate.

Chairman.] Do you remember a native having said to us at our meeting at Schoonoord that he had been irrigating and had been displaced by a white man? Where was that?

Mr. Yeats.] On the farm Steelpoortpark. Another case was that of the Chief Shopian on the farm Eerste Geluk. They had small furrows.

Col. Damant.] On looking at the map I find I did not recommend the yellow line. I recommended the river as the line. My line runs along the river and includes Steelpoortdrift, Driehoek, Ironstone, Droogehoek, Aapiesboom to where it joins the yellow line at Belvedere. There is no water between the yellow and green line except a few small streams. All the stock there must water on the Steelpoort, that is the stock on the farms riparian to the Steelpoort.

Chairman.] Supposing the Beaumont line were adhered to, would there be any difficulty in the natives' finding water for their stock?

Col. Damant.] Yes.

Chairman.] What number of stock would be affected?

Col. Damant.] Along the whole length I should say about 5,000 head of large stock and about 20,000 to 30,000 goats.

Chairman.] Do the natives draw water from the Steelpoort for domestic purposes?

Col. Damant.] Yes, all those living on the farms riparian to the river.

Chairman.] Is much of that land on the left bank occupied by Europeans to-day?

Col. Damant.] Eerste Geluk is occupied all the year round. Steelpoortdrift during the winter months, Bothashoek and Doornbosch during the winter months, and Boschkloof all the year round. Steelpoortdrift is Joubert's farm. Aapiesdoorndraai on the other bank belongs to the native Chief Manok.

Chairman.] Which is the more valuable of the two, Steelpoortdrift 681 or Aapiesdoorndraai 1313?

Col. Damant.] The latter. It is worth £13 to £15 a morgen. I originally recommended that that farm should be included in the native area, but since then I have formed the opinion that the river should be the boundary because it is a natural line. I think the river should be the line up to where it cuts the Beaumont line, thence following the Beaumont line to Ohrig, thence all along the edge of the Drakensberg. Fully described my area is as follows: It begins on the Olifants River at the farm Oxford, thence it runs

along the Selati Railway line to where it crosses the Sabi, thence westwards along the Sabi River to the farm Frankfort, thence along the western boundary of the farm Frankfort, thence northwards including the farms Welcome, Waterhoutboom, Hebron, Dehoutbosch, Versailles, Vooruitzicht, Welgevonden, Hebron, Salique to the south-eastern corner of the farm Mulford, thence all along the green line to the Steelpoort River.

Chairman.] Why have you recommended this additional area to the East?

Col. Damant.] Because the Beaumont area is quite inadequate and it is impossible to put the natives there.

Chairman.] Do the natives living in the area which you propose to add in the East live under tribal conditions?

Col. Damant.] Yes, in a modified form. Their chiefs are scattered all about. They form small tribal units. They are Shangaans, Swazis, Mbaais, and Zulus.

Chairman.] How long have the natives been in that area?

Col. Damant.] For generations.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the natives only came in after the white man had occupied the country.

Col. Damant.] I think the natives have been there for three or four generations.

Chairman.] What is the nature of that country, broadly speaking, excluding Bushbuck Ridge?

Col. Damant.] Its altitude varies from 1,700 to 300 feet. It is malarious all over. Even Bushbuck Ridge, which is 3,000 feet, is malarious, though it is considerably healthier than the other parts.

Chairman.] What is the extent of the Bushbuck Ridge area?

Col. Damant.] I should say about 400 sq. miles.

Chairman.] How much of that is arable and productive?

Col. Damant.] It is difficult to say. The natives cultivate in little pockets all over the place.

Mr. Yeats.] I should put it at 14 to 16 per cent.

Col. Damant.] I should put it higher than that, say 20 per cent.

Chairman.] Would you take Bierley's farm Maviljan as typical of soil conditions in that area?

Col. Damant.] Yes. I should describe the area as Middle Veld, but at the same time it is slightly malarious.

Chairman.] Can you tell us approximately what is the additional area recommended by you in the East—its extent I mean?

Col. Damant.] About 1,300 sq. miles. There are 43,380 natives living there at the present time. The number of natives falling outside the Beaumont area and the additional area recommended by me is 29,858 all classes. Of these 19,493 are rent-paying squatters, that is, souls.

Chairman.] How much of the additional area in the East excluding Bushbuck Ridge is arable and productive?

Col. Damant.] A little more than Bushbuck Ridge is arable, that is, as distinct from arable and productive. All the farms in the North are perfectly useless, that is, as far as the Sand River. They could not be cultivated except for one or two little patches. North of the Sand River I should say 5 per cent. is arable and productive. To the south of the Sand River towards the Sabi I should say about 20 per cent. The rainfall down there is, I think, about 30 inches.

Chairman.] How many farms are beneficially occupied in the whole of that additional area?

Col. Damant.] There are about 35 Europeans—all souls—in the whole of that area. Only four or five are actually farming. I am including Bushbuck Ridge They have not made extensive improvements. They have native rent-paying squatters on their farms. The farms in this additional area belong chiefly to companies. A few are privately owned.

Chairman.] What proportion of the natives on these farms are rent-paying squatters?

Col. Damant.] Nearly all of them.

Chairman.] Is any of that country used for winter grazing by Europeans.

Col. Damant.] Yes. Some of it is. Farmers from the high veld use the country as far as Acornhoek. The country is not suitable for sheep. There are about 8 or 10 farmers who go down there every year.

Chairman.] A suggestion has been made to us by the Bourke Trust that a certain group of farms which is said to be suitable for ranching should be excluded from the native area. The farms in question are in the northern portion of the additional area which you recommend.

Col. Damant.] They could be excluded. They are quite useless for native purposes. If necessary I could amend my proposal by cutting off the northern portion of my additional area by means of a direct line running from Ohrig to the south-eastern beacon of Acornhoek, making the eastern boundary of the area run northwards from Ohrig along the edge of the berg to the old Lydenburg-Leydsdorp main road at the point where it crosses the Olifants. It is very poor country. And there are not many natives. It is very unhealthy, but it is good cattle country—in fact it is valuable cattle country. It is impossible to irrigate there to any extent owing to the nature of the country. Nor is it

possible to the south of the line I have just drawn. The country is a succession of sharp ridges.

Chairman.] What is the value of land towards the Sabi Rivier excluding Bushbuck Ridge?

Col. Damant.] 5s. a morgen. On Bushbuck Ridge 8s. to 9s.

Chairman.] What is the value of the land riparian to the Steelpoort?

Col. Damant.] That is the only bit of valuable ground in the whole of Sekukuniland. Riparian farms average about 15s. a morgen. Joubert's farm Steelpoortdrift is worth about 22s. 6d. a morgen.

Chairman.] What is your reason for recommending the Bushbuck Ridge area?

Col. Damant.] The whole of it is tribally occupied by natives to a much greater extent than the rest of the area. It is much more densely occupied, and it is more healthy than the other parts. My idea is to provide for the natives living on the higher levels. We shall have to provide for 19,000 natives who live on higher levels.

Chairman.] Do you think that natives from the high veld in other districts might be suitably accommodated in that area?

Col. Damant.] No, I do not think they could live there. It is too malarious.

Chairman.] Could high veld natives live in the Secocoeni ward of the Middelburg District?

Col. Damant.] Yes, that would be quite suitable country for high veld natives.

Chairman.] Would you consider the Secocoeni Ward a reasonable area to provide for high veld natives?

Col. Damant.] Yes, I would.

Chairman.] Would you consider that a suitable provision having regard to its position or relation to the existing boundaries of the proposed native areas?

Col. Damant.] Yes.

Chairman.] More suitable than creating an area if necessary on the high veld?

Col. Damant.] I should not say that It is so difficult to get an area on the high veld. The high veld is very valuable from the European point of view.

Chairman.] Is that Pokwani area fairly largely occupied by natives now?

Col. Damant.] Yes, I should say it is. I know that country fairly well. Moreover there are comparatively few white people.

Chairman.] Would you consider that excluding the farms riparian to the Olifants plus a strip one farm deep would be adequate compensation to the white people for the inclusion of the Pokwani area?

Col. Damant.] Yes, I should think that quite fair.

Chairman.] Is there an advantage from an administrative point of view in making the native areas as compact as possible?

Col Damant.] Yes, I am in favour of that. It would lessen the points of contact between black and white and I consider that most desirable.

Chairman.] Mr. Yeats, are the farmers in your district able to get as much labour as they require?

Mr. Yeats.] The labour conditions in my area are good. It is the ninety-days labour-tenancy system. Many natives work much longer. The women work during reaping time. They are not paid. They come under the contract of the husband.

Chairman.] And in your district, Colonel Damant?

Col. Damant.] Certain people always have difficulty in getting labour, but so far as the substantial farmers are concerned they get as much labour as they require.

Chairman.] Do the natives like the labour-tenancy form of service?

Col. Damant.] Yes, I think so.

Chairman.] If the Bill goes through in its present form especially with respect to the licence money chargeable to the owner of a farm in respect of each native squatter, do you think it is going to have any immediate effects so far as the displacement of natives is concerned?

Col. Damant.] I think they would move. I do not think they would pay.

Chairman.] Suppose these 19,000 natives wished to move, do you think the areas you have recommended are in readiness for their reception?

Col. Damant.] Yes, I think so. But it should so far as possible be a gradual process so as to enable the Government to provide more water in the proposed native areas by means of boreholes. The area cannot accommodate any great number of additional natives until a water-scheme has been introduced. I think the situation in Sekukuniland could be greatly improved by putting down boreholes.

The Sabi Reserve to the east of the railway line is suitable for natives, but it is very malarious. It could not carry a very large native population. I should not recommend that natives be placed there at all

. I should like to point out that the Beaumont Commission did not visit the area at all. They took evidence at Lydenburg, and it was on that local evidence, excluding the official evidence, that their recommendations were made. I can only think that they recommended the area they did because they were unacquainted with it.

Chairman.] If the Beaumont Area were not enlarged what would be the position with regard to the natives outside the area? Where would they go?

Col. Damant.] I think they would leave the country. They would have to. It is a physical impossibility to put any more natives into the Beaumont Area. We should be called upon to accommodate 58,000 natives in addition to those already in the area. There is not room in the area for 1,500 or 2,000 more. Even the area that I recommend, though apparently large, would not accommodate all the natives and their increase in the next ten years unless closer settlement were introduced. That is quite impossible under present circumstances. The removal of natives will have to be gradual.

Chairman.] In making your recommendations you have had due regard to the occupation of the land by natives and non-natives?

Col. Damant.] I wished as little as possible to cause any disturbance of black or white, and I have followed natural boundaries such as rivers, mountains and railway lines.

I know the area immediately to the south of the Sabi River. I have been all over Sections E and F. The land south of the Sabi is occupied entirely by natives.

Chairman.] Do you know the country immediately east of the Logies in the Sabi Ward?

Col. Damant.] Yes. It is very similar to the Bushbuck Ridge area.

I do not know Area 19.

There are Swazis living in my additional area north of the Sabi Rivier. They are quite contented there.

Chairman.] It has been suggested to us that the Swazis living in Area 19 would never live in Section F.

Col. Damant.] The Swazis north of the Sabi River and also in Sekukuniland get on very well there and are living quite contentedly.

Chairman.] What number of natives do you think Section F and the area to the east of the Logies could accommodate?

Mr. Yeats.] I should say 30,000.

Col. Damant.] I should say more, 40,000 to 50,000.

In order to conform to a possible native area south of the Sabi I am prepared to modify the eastern and south-eastern boundary of my proposed additional area by excluding the farms east of Eveagh, Kildare, Ronaldsey and Cork.

I should like to point out with reference to the recommendations of the Beaumont Commission that by excluding the farms riparian to the Steelpoort River they deprive the natives of all land of any agricultural value whatever. Not only do they deprive them of a river frontage of nearly 40 miles, but also of the drinking water which they obtain at present in the small fountains which rise in the Lulu Mountains and flow down to the Steelpoort. This would cause great dissatisfaction among the natives.

Chairman.] It has been suggested that natives do not irrigate.

Col. Damant.] It is not that they do not want to irrigate. The reason why they do not irrigate is purely and simply the scarcity of water. In Sekukuniland you will find that irrigation is carried on in the small pockets, in the kloofs, and along the rivers wherever it is possible to irrigate. I am quite sure that if the natives had access to the Steelpoort River they would irrigate those riparian farms which are capable of being irrigated to a large extent, but of course they would have to be assisted in taking the water out. I would suggest with a view to accommodating a larger number of natives in Sekukuniland and introducing closer settlement that (say) ten boreholes be put down in Geluk's Location and ten in Secocoeni's portion. I make this suggestion as the result of careful investigation of that part of the area.

I am satisfied that the Beaumont Commission did not inspect the areas they recommended, and I am quite certain that in recommending what they did they had no idea of what they were recommending. Now the present Committee have visited with me the whole of the area both in Sekukuniland and below the Berg, and I feel quite confident that, from their personal observation and their interviews with the natives, they must come to the conclusion that the area recommended by me is a suitable area for the natives of my district. But I wish particularly to impress upon the Committee the fact that, if these farms on the Steelpoort River are cut out of the native area, there will be endless trouble and dissatisfaction among the natives. Seeing that there are only three riparian farms occupied by white people we may take it, I think, as a fact that the inclusion of these farms in the native area would not seriously prejudice white interests. I have spoken to most of the owners of these farms, and I am quite sure that they would be only too willing to dispose of them to the Government at a reasonable figure or exchange them for ground elsewhere.

Mr. Yeats.] There is one point with regard to the Steelpoort. During 1916 the water in the river was so low that I consider it would be quite impossible to irrigate to the full extent the land on both sides of the river. I consider that if all possible water furrows were taken out on the right bank—that is the European side—there would not be sufficient water to irrigate both banks. During the summer months there would be sufficient, and the natives could then make use of the water. I would also point out that the natives in Sekukuniland have for years and years always recognised the Steelpoort as the boundary between themselves and the white people. They have always considered that to be a tribal boundary, and chiefs and headmen have very strongly represented that point to me

at meetings where we have discussed the Land Act. Sekukuniland has been occupied by the Bapedi for many generations and at one time they lived on the farms Naboomkoppies and Aapiesdoorndraai until they were driven away by the Zulus.

There is a further point the broken nature of the country in Sekukuniland. There are four distinct ranges running right through from north to south. There is the range between the Middelburg and Lydenburg districts, the Lulu Mountains, a range running roughly right across from Rostock to Schlickmannskloof, and the range running right across the Olifants River. This mountainous country is useless even for grazing purposes especially along the Lulu Mountains. There are also many farms in this area upon which not a single morgen of ground can be cultivated.

Col. Damant.] Another thing. The farms on the Olifants River are quite useless. They cannot be irrigated. You cannot get the water out at all. The only river we want is the Steelpoort.

Chairman.] How much native-owned stock is there outside the area?

Col. Damant.] 6,350 large and 42,000 small.

The country between Mafefe's and Mabin's Locations is not good. It is all mountainous. No extensive use could be made of that country. There is a lot of water, but only little pockets of alluvial soil here and there. It is unhealthy.

When I said there would be no objection to introducing Swazis into Section F and the Game Reserve east of the Logies I had in view the Swazis living in the Lydenburg district.

I should like to add in support of my contention that the Sekukuniland area is too small that during the last nine years the natives have on an average imported mealies to the amount of twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand bags a year, the average price being about 20s. That is due to the poorness of the rainfall. During these years 90 per cent. of the crops were a failure. A full crop would have been sufficient to support the population.

I should like to say something with regard to native Chief Micha Dinkinyana in my district. This chief has a following of about 2,000 Bapedi, who are in occupation tribally of the farm Boomplaats purchased by the tribe. It will be necessary to find accommodation for this chief and his people within the area. They are living now at an altitude of 4,800 feet. The only place in which they could be reasonably accommodated would be in the Pokwani area.

With regard to the farm Aapiesdoorndraai belonging to Manok, which falls into the European area, it is possible that an exchange might be effected of that farm for the farm Steelpoortdrift on the opposite bank of the Steelpoort, which is developed to some extent. In my opinion Aapiesdoorndraai is a much better developed farm than the other.

Pretoria, 4th February, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

FREDERICK PETRUS VAN DEVENTER, JOHAN GEORG MEYER, GERHARDUS PETRUS BADENHORST: Examined by Chairman.

Chairman.] Are you appointed by the public or do you come here in a private capacity?

Mr. van Deventer.] We are delegates appointed as the result of several meetings. I have also been asked to appear on behalf of the Transvaal Agricultural Union.

There was not really much complaint in the district until after the Beaumont Report had been published. Several meetings were held in consequence, and a central committee appointed to deal with the matter. We are a committee appointed by the central committee.

Chairman.] You know of course the Loskop irrigation project which affects Area 17. The proposal is that a number of farms two deep on each side of the river should be cut out of the native area so as to provide elbow room for the scheme. Where would you give compensation?

Mr. van Deventer.] I am not in a position to say. The position is this. At the time the Beaumont Commission took evidence for some reason or another the views of the Pretoria district were very badly represented. Now, however, the thing has been better organised. Meetings have been held all over, and delegates appointed, and that is why we are here. I tried to give evidence before the Beaumont Commission, but had no opportunity. When their report was issued and we saw how the areas had been demarcated we were seriously alarmed. We are all of opinion that no more land should be included in a native reserve than what the natives already own in this district. We are not opposed to the principle of the Bill. We wish simply to fight the matter from the point of view of the interests of the Pretoria District. We think that the Pretoria District should remain as it is now. The land the natives already possess is quite sufficient.

Now, I know that if I say to you to-day that only the existing native-owned land should be proclaimed a native area, you will ask whether it is enough to provide for the natives of the district. But, you see, the Pretoria District is peculiarly situated. It is over-crowded with white people. A large portion of the district is very closely occupied by white people to-day. Some of the farms are even cut up into erven. I have in mind ten farms which are well known to me and which lie in the close neighbourhood of the Native Reserve. On Vitzicht there are 28 farmers, on Boekenhoutkloof 30, on Kameeldrift 31, on Rietfontein West 50, on Scheerpoort 94, on Remhoogte 30, on Krokodildrift 72, on De Kroon 39, on Rooikoppies 130; Krokodildrift and De Kroon are only portions of farms. On Zoutpansdrift (though this is in the Rustenburg District) there are 75 farmers, and on Groenplaats 26. On these ten farms there are 607 farmers. They all go in fairly largely for agriculture. They all adjoin each other except Hartebeestpoort. Taking to each farmer ten oxen, two cows, and one horse, there are on these ten farms 9,105 large head of stock at least. These farms are quite over-crowded with white people, and there are as many cattle as the farms can carry. These farms could not produce what they do to-day if it were not that there is land available in the Native Reserve. Those who do not own land there hire it. If the native areas are demarcated as proposed a great deal of damage will ensue to white farmers. I have mentioned only ten farms, but the position is just as bad on the other side of the district. Many farmers could not exist, owing to poisonous weeds on their farms, if it were not that they had farms in the proposed native area. I have 750 morgen in one place. Quite half of it is poison. I can keep my cattle there only during a part of the year. I am compelled to send my cattle into Area 16. If that area is proclaimed a native area many farmers will have to give up farming. Agriculture will in any case suffer because farmers will not be able to keep cattle to work their farms.

There is another point to which I would draw your attention. The Government is now busy on this Hartebeestpoort Irrigation Scheme. Most of the farms I have mentioned are situated just other side of the scheme and are to be brought under water. The scheme makes the position of the farmers on these farms still more difficult because it reduces the grazing veld. There will be no means of providing for the cattle. I propose that the areas should be made as small as possible. There are already 68,712 morgen of scheduled areas in the district. Our people have instructed us to say that we cannot grant more than that in this district. Lately farmers in the Pretoria District have been applying themselves more and more to cattle farming.

Chairman.] If we accepted the recommendation that no further area should be granted it would work out at less than 1 morgen per unit of population.

Mr. van Deventer.] It is unfair to provide for the increase of native population over the next ten years. What about the natives who have ten wives? They increase so rapidly. I do not think we ought to make provision for ten years. Another thing is that some districts are saddled with natives of other districts. Take the Pretoria District for instance. Most of the natives here are refugees. They came from Rhodesia and Basutoland. They came here as servants and inter-married. Pretoria has been saddled with all these natives. Pretoria and Johannesburg are the two places where there is most demand for service, and the consequence is the natives flock here from all parts.

Chairman.] We must treat each district on its own merits, and sacrifices must be made by all alike.

Mr. van Deventer.] I do not agree. The position is that we have to do with two sections of the population, the white and the black. When white people settled here they saw at once that the district was no use to them unless they had ground in the bushveld. Every farmer therefore took care to provide himself with a farm in the middle veld and one in the bushveld. It would not be fair to make one of the farms impossible to the farmer.

I do not wish to saddle other districts with our natives either, because I know what it is in our own district. From our point of view I do not think it would be fair to the white man to take away his vested rights. The agricultural farms are so over-crowded that the farmers must have farms on the bushveld. High veld farmers are exactly in the same position. If these low veld farms are taken away it is impossible for them to exist on the high veld.

Chairman.] Why cannot the same methods be adopted here as in the Cathcart District, where high veld farmers provide for themselves all the year round on the high veld?

Mr. van Deventer.] Conditions here are not the same. About a quarter of the district is high veld. The southern portion is so rocky that agriculture is almost impossible. It is only in the bottoms that the farmers can sow. Then also in the Broukhorstspruit direction—what is known as the Merrie Hoogveld—a considerable portion is very rocky, and it would be very difficult to produce fodder. The veld is so good for cattle in the summer that it does not pay one to plough there.

According to the map it would seem that only a small portion of the district is to be given to natives, but you must take into consideration that it is the cream of the Pretoria District. The whole of Area 16 is good.

Chairman.] If it is so wonderfully good why is it not occupied by white people?

Mr. van Deventer.] In former years when the white people first came here the bushveld was unhealthy. There was a great deal of disease. Our people were afraid to live there. They preferred to live on the high veld, but they left the bushveld open for winter purposes. Now things have changed. The whole of the bushveld is becoming occupied.

Chairman.] How many white people are in Area 16?

Mr. van Deventer.] I should say about 30 altogether, but shall give you exact information later.

There are hundreds of people in this district who are being supported by the Government because there is no room for them.

Chairman.] Can you give us any idea how the area should be demarcated? And what additional area should be given?

Mr. van Deventer.] I say that we cannot to-day say that we must make provision for the natives. It is not fair that the country should be taken away from the pioneers. The circumstances here are peculiar. High veld farmers must have a place for the winter or they cannot exist.

Chairman.] We are bound by our terms of reference. We have to go to the Government and say: "Here are certain areas to provide adequately and suitably for the natives." We have got to find suitable ground for the natives.

Mr. van Deventer.] In that case I do not understand the position. After the Beaumont Commission the people of the Pretoria District made very strong representations, and the Government then promised to give us another commission to hear evidence.

Chairman.] Our terms of reference lay down clearly what we are expected to do, and there is no reason why you should not say how these areas should be modified, and there is no reason why we should not act upon your suggestions if so advised. But we are bound to provide adequately and suitably for the natives in the Transvaal. If you wish to take land away then you ought to tell us what other land we should provide elsewhere, or tell us that you are not in a position to make recommendations.

Mr. van Deventer.] I do not wish to make the position impossible for the natives, but we cannot make recommendations lest we should place the people of other districts in the very position which we wish to escape ourselves.

Mr. Badenhorst.] My opinion is that if Area 16 is given to the natives the ordinary small farmer will not be able to exist. A farmer cannot exist without cattle, even though he has the best possible agricultural land.

Mr. Boltman.] Can't you buy suitable ground elsewhere?

Mr. Badenhorst. No, it is quite impracticable if I have to buy 100 or 200 miles away.

Chairman.] Could you not buy land for grazing in the Waterberg immediately north of Area 16?

Mr. Badenhorst.] There are large numbers of natives living there, and there is no water, and it is very sandy. Area 16 is indispensable to the Pretoria District.

Mr. van Deventer.] There are opportunities for irrigation in Area 16. I have no doubt that in time a great deal of wheat and oats will be grown.

Chairman.] What sort of schemes? Are there any big comprehensive schemes?

Mr. van Deventer.] Yes, in my opinion on the Pienaars River as well as on the Aapies. Large co-operative schemes of irrigation are possible also on the Sand River in Area 16. Mr. Nicholson has always advocated co-operative schemes in that area. It is strange to me that he should say now that no such schemes are possible.

Chairman.] Mr. Kanthack's views are not the same as yours.

Mr. van Deventer.] I am expressing my own personal opinion. I do not agree with Mr. Kanthack. There are in my opinion comprehensive schemes within the area on the Sand, Pienaars, and Aapies Rivers.

There are one or two other small points. I say that the law will be very unfair in its application to owners of land which falls into the native area. The law says you can sell to a native and under certain circumstances you can sell to a white man. Now the value of that ground is sure to depreciate as soon as the areas are proclaimed. This is what happened to me. I tried to raise £500 on the farm Vijgeboschlaagte, which falls in the area. The bank agreed, but on the following day I was told that they were very sorry but it had been resolved not to lend money on property falling into native areas. That shows you the effect the proposals have in making the value of property go down.

The owners of farms in the native areas will hold them as long as they can for the sake of the grazing.

Chairman.] Mr. Nicholson told us that, if their ground fell into native areas, the white people would get out as soon as they could.

Mr. van Deventer.] The instruction I have from the Agricultural Union is just the reverse. The farmers say they mean to hold their ground as long as they can, because it is most important to them.

Chairman.] Supposing the farms do fall in, what do you think the Government should do to relieve the position?

Mr. van Deventer.] My proposal is that instead of proclaiming a native area the Government should proclaim an open area in which natives should be allowed to buy land for five years, and that the land which they then acquire should be declared a native area, but the remainder should be non-native.

Chairman.] According to the Bill not more than five natives may buy land together. Would you say that that restriction should be withdrawn?

Mr. van Deventer.] Yes, certainly in that case. (All members of deputation agree.)

Chairman.] Would there not be this danger that certain tribes would buy up the whole of the area and prevent individual natives from coming in and buying limited areas? The idea of limiting purchase to five natives is to prevent the tribes locking out the individual.

Mr. van Deventer.] As I said just now, there are many natives in the district who have no right here. I consider that the tribes have the first claim because they have lived here for generations. The detribalised native is a foreign native. He should give precedence to the tribal native.

We would make a further proposal in case the two we have already made are not acceptable. We would consent to the areas in the Pretoria District becoming open areas without any restrictions on the sale or purchase of land except in this respect, that once a native has bought he shall not be allowed to sell again to a European.

Chairman.] We have made a record of these proposals of yours. With regard to the first one, we have seen that if it were accepted there would be inadequate provision on the population basis. As to your second proposal that the natives should be allowed to buy freely for five years collectively or individually and that after that time such land as they have not acquired should be non-native—the difficulty of that is this, that the native once realising that he has a limited time within which to buy will do all in his power to buy as much as he can, with the result that the owner will put up the price far beyond the market value.

Mr. van Deventer.] I do not think so.

Chairman.] Then there is the difficulty to be feared as the result of the tribe excluding the individual. Most of these difficulties disappear it is true in your third proposal. Which of these proposals do you yourself think the most practicable in the interests of black and white?

Mr. van Deventer.] I should take No. 2. I think it the most practicable of the three.

Mr. Meyer.] All the natives are in a position to compete for the farms. There would be no danger of a few rich tribes buying up all the land.

Mr. van Deventer.] We are not in favour of the expropriation clause as applicable either to the native or non-native area. We are very much opposed to the whole idea. Quite recently I have been busying myself in trying to persuade the Government not to resort to expropriation measures in connection with the Hartebeestpoort scheme. If you must expropriate for public purposes the Government has the power in any case. The Government must take care that it does not give away to the natives land that is suitable for public purposes or adapted to some industry. Once the natives have settled there it is their property and it should not be expropriated. Once native an area must be always native.

There is another point. It seems to me that the Government has lost sight of one important fact in connection with the labour-tenant. There are large numbers of natives who have grown up on farms. They are quite contented there, and do not want to go away. They do not want to buy land. Therefore there is no need to make provision for them. The natives that I have driven away from my farm have come back. These natives are in the same class as the poor white man. They must work for their living, just as numbers of white men work on farms at the present time—not the old stamp of bijwoner, but overseers and men who actually toil with their hands.

With regard to squatters I think a great many of them will go into the areas. At one time before the war there was only a poll-tax, but afterwards squatters were taxed extra. The result was that many of them trekked on to the farms and became labour-tenants. Some natives will go to the Reserve, but others will go on to the farms.

On my own farm the system is this. The native contracts to work six months in the year. I give him a piece of land and oxen with which to plough. He works week and week about for me and for himself. In harvest time, however, he must work right through and then I pay him. My natives are very contented.

Chairman.] Is that not a wasteful form of employment?

Mr. van Deventer.] I dare say it would pay better to pay a wage. The native does take more out of the land than would be covered by a fair wage. Our only reason for sticking to the system is that it gives us a regular supply. Labour-tenancy is more satisfactory under present conditions. Most farmers cannot afford to pay a wage in competition with the mines.

(Messrs. Meyer and Badenhorst state that they approve of the evidence given by Mr. van Deventer.)

Pretoria, 5th *February*, 1918.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN and MR. BOLTMAN.

HENRY ROSE-INNES: Examined by Chairman.

I am Magistrate and Native Commissioner for the district of Pretoria, and have held that position for sixteen years. I have two Sub-Native Commissioners under me—one at Pretoria and one at Hamanskraal. I know the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission.

Chairman.] Have you any suggestions to make as to either the modification or enlargement of the areas?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] I may state that those areas were framed upon my recommendations to the Beaumont Commission. I went very carefully into the matter together with the late Mr. Allan King. The outcome of our labours was the areas adopted by the Beaumont Commission. One of the principles upon which we acted was this that wherever there were large and important irrigation projects these should be reserved for Europeans. Now, I believe there is a project of this kind on the Elands River immediately outside Area 17. The idea is to build a dam somewhere in the neighbourhood of the farm Rust-de-winter, which would irrigate a large number of farms lying along the river.

Chairman.] Up to what point?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] We originally decided that land would be irrigable as far as Bezuidenhoutskraal, but recently I have been over the country again, and I think that the farms Rickertslaager 511, Vaalbank 363, and Allemansdrift fall within the possibilities of the scheme and should be excluded also. My reason for this is that the native is not capable either of financing an irrigation scheme or of making use of land which can be irrigated. There are very few Europeans living there at the present time, but it is only a question of time and all these irrigation projects will be taken up.

The largest irrigation project of all, however, is the one on the Olifants River, which commands farms situate partly in the Pretoria and partly in the Middelburg District. Area 17 in the Pretoria District is affected by the scheme. Looking up at the map you will find that the farms Klipbank 267, Krokodildrift 244, Kameelkop 246, Blaauwwildebeestfontein 237, Wolkraal 566, and Moosriviersmond were excluded from the area. Now, it is a considerable time since I gave my evidence before the Beaumont Commission.

Chairman.] Do you think there should be any modification of Area 17?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] I think the scheme will be one which will be eventually taken up by small holders. These people will require to keep draft-animals and a sufficiency of small stock for domestic purposes. Some elbow-room is therefore necessary.

Chairman.] Why did you not exclude the farms right up to Kalkput?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Kalkput is commanded by the scheme only in a very minor degree. Perhaps Kalkput, Kleinwaterfontein 273, and Nooitgedacht 365, taking the river as the boundary because there is very little water and the natives in this way might have an equal opportunity of using the river might also be excluded from the native area. Portions of Vaalfontein and Nooitgedacht should also be excluded—that is, the portions east of the Moos River, giving riparian rights to both sides. Then I should say you could throw Ronddavel into the European area.

There is a farm called Marblehall close by where a specially fine deposit of marble has been discovered. It is a dry farm and has never been taken up by anyone. That, too, might be excluded from the native area. It is a fairly large farm and will provide a good deal of grazing for the purposes of the irrigation scheme.

I should like to draw your attention to the farm Elandsdoorn 225, of which a portion is already owned by the natives of Quarrielaagte, Paledi's people, who number about four thousand. They have purchased a thousand morgen of Elandsdoorn. Then, again, they want to purchase 500 morgen of the farm Waterkloof 285, the northern portion belonging to Mr. P. P. Roets. He has seen me and the purchase has been virtually concluded. If this farm could be included in the native area I should strongly recommend the purchase by the natives. They have been in occupation of the ground for many years. It is valuable only for grazing. The question arises indeed whether it would not be better to include the whole of that farm.

Chairman.] What about Rietfontein?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] No, that is occupied by white people.

Chairman.] Why were these farms Blompoort, Elandsdoorn, and Uitspanning—excluded?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] It was thought that there were opportunities for irrigation there. I do not know whether the Irrigation Department ever surveyed that country. I should say that these farms might be thrown into the native area in compensation for the excluded river-farms, but before coming to a conclusion on that point I would suggest your consulting the Irrigation Department.

Chairman.] Is that your only representation with respect to Area 17?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] I should like to add that Area 17 has for, I suppose, a couple of generations been almost exclusively occupied by natives all the year round. These farms are owned by Europeans, who go there for the winter-grazing.

The natives are mostly labour-tenants. The area is used largely as a reservoir of labour for the farms on the high veld.

Chairman.] We have had very conflicting statements about the origin of the natives living in the areas. It has been said that they have been here a very short time and that they are not indigenous to the Transvaal.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Well, take Area 17. That is mainly occupied by Bakgathla under Chief Roberts Moepi. They own what is known as Mabaan's Location, better known as Schildpadfontein. Originally these farms were purchased with tribal money and the ground was transferred into the name of the Berlin Mission. In those days natives were not allowed to own ground, and the missionaries acted as a sort of protector to them and took transfer. At any rate the present missionaries there have been there for about forty years. The natives therefore have been settled there for at least forty years. That is the only location there. The eastern portion of the area along the Olifants River is occupied by Bapedi under Chief Paledi. They are an off-shoot of the Secocoeni tribe, but are now an independent tribal unit. They occupy all the eastern portion of the area.

Chairman.] How long have they been there?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] I have been here sixteen years, and I paid my first visit to them in the beginning of July, 1902. They had then been established for a considerable time. They came from Secocoeniland. The person who could give you exact information is Mr. P. Vijs, near Bronkhorstspruit. He was field-cornet of that area, and according to his account these natives must have been there some considerable time before I came on the scene. A large portion of Area 17 is exclusively occupied by natives. There is a very sparse white population other than traders and missionaries. Most of the white settlers are not exactly of the poor-white class; they do a bit of farming; and some of them are mechanics. Some of them plough for the natives. They earn, on the whole, a very scanty living. That type has little or no vested interests, with the exception of a few in the extreme western corner. Pankop is permanently occupied. Portion is occupied by the Viljoen family. Middelkoppen, which belongs to Mr. E. F. Bourke, is effectively occupied. I think that Zandfontein and Pankoppen should be excluded. Zandfontein belongs to Isaac Stegmann. From a European point of view these farms have no particular value. It is all very sandy country there. There is a great sandstone formation running from Pankoppen right through Maban's Location. Now, with regard to Area 16. Beginning in the south we have Sjambok's Location—Hoekfontein. That is a recognised native location. The ground is held by the Minister of Native Affairs in trust for the natives. It has been settled by an off-shoot of the Bakgathla people for more than forty years. Kokskraal No. 323 is also occupied by these natives and is a scheduled area. This tribe has also bought a portion of the farm Wildebeesthoek, and I would suggest that that portion also be included in the native area. The other portion belongs to Europeans and should not be included. Going further north we come to the Bakoena people on Kameelfontein, which is otherwise known as the Hebron Location. Then there is Sjambokskraal No. 52. This farm is settled by a European family, but I think that in course of time it will be absorbed for native purposes owing to its situation and owing to its being particularly suitable for native occupation. Then you get the farm Cijferfontein. That also belongs to these natives. They are under Chief Mamagalie, and they are spread over Palmietfontein No. 190, otherwise known as Jericho Location. This particular tribe is spread over the north-western portion of the district north of Kameelfontein, and they have made extensive purchases too. The conditions in regard to European occupation are similar to those in Area 17.

Chairman.] It was suggested to us in evidence yesterday that there were at least sixty European families in that area. Is that correct?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] There may be forty or fifty families, mostly traders and chiefly of the bijwoner type.

Chairman.] There is a great deal of feeling about this area. It is said that farming operations will be considerably hampered if Area 17 is retained for natives.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] But farmers cannot be compelled to sell. I would state in regard to that area that natives pay twice as much for ground as you can get from a European, and owing to their socialistic system of living they can overbid the European; the result is the land has gradually been going. The families who hold ground down there are the Meyers and the Strydoms. The Meyers live near Johannesburg.

Chairman.] What are the irrigation possibilities of that area? We have a lot of conflicting evidence about it. Both Mr. Kanthack and Mr. Nicholson say that no comprehensive scheme is at all possible.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] That is my opinion too.

Chairman.] Then we have the evidence of Messrs. van Deventer, Meyer, and Badenhorst, who say that there are most excellent irrigation possibilties there along the Aapies, Sand, and Elands Rivers. They spoke of a dam which might be put up at Boschplaats,

Mr. Rose-Innes.] This is the first I have heard of a scheme there. It is quite possible that individual schemes might be undertaken. I may tell you that one of the owners of Wynandskraal was willing to sell to natives, but wanted too much. Another owner, however, did sell at a more reasonable figure.

Chairman.] With regard to the suggestion made by the deputation yesterday that the area be declared an open area for five years and that whatever they fail to acquire within that time should become definitely non-native, we should like to know what your opinion is of that.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] My objection is that it means a settlement of this question for five years only; and, again, I do not think it is a fair proposal. The natives would have to pay a fabulous price for that ground. Rather than adopt such a suggestion I would see the areas reduced. There must be finality.

Chairman.] What is your view with regard to open areas in general for a longer period (say) ten years.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] You mean I take it as sort of buffer areas.

Chairman.] Do you think such areas would operate to the prejudice of either black or white?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] The period should be twenty years at least. That would obviate juggling with the land. It would mean that at the end of twenty years the natives would be almost certain to own the whole of that area with the exception perhaps of the ground belonging to the Strydoms and the Meyers. It comes to this. It is very difficult to farm alongside natives. The process of elimination of the white man by purchase has been going on for the last fifteen years. But for Act 27 of 1913 the natives might by now have owned almost the whole of that area. We assist them to acquire land in those areas, and the only thing we insist upon is that, if there are more than a few individuals, their holding must be tribal.

Chairman.] Do they readily accept that form of title?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] They were very suspicious at first. Paledi bought a lot of land and had it put into his own name. But he can only get transfer of the land he now wishes to buy in the form that has been prescribed. I am very much in favour of that system wherever land is acquired collectively by natives.

Chairman.] With regard to natives living outside Areas 16 and 17, is there a tendency among them to move along different lines from those who live under the communal system?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] We have very wealthy natives in this district. I know of a family of natives who have bought farms for £12,000. Eventually seven individuals signed the Deed of Purchase, but there are about a hundred interested.

Chairman.] Would you say that there is a fairly large number of that class of natives in the non-native areas?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Yes, there are a good number.

Chairman.] Do you think that class of natives will bear the burden of the licence-money? I am speaking now of the rent-paying squatter. Will it drive him to work for the white man on the farms or will he seek a sanctuary in the native areas?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] It all depends upon individual cases. If he is fairly well off he will not go into the native area. The poorer ones may either work on farms or go into the areas.

Chairman.] Do you regard labour-tenancy as a satisfactory system of labour?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] If I were a farmer I should prefer to have labourers and pay them. It is economically more sound. You have a lot of trouble with labour-tenants.

Chairman.] What is the cause of the trouble?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] There is no really definite contract and there are always disputes. We have two cases now in which it is most difficult to decide the rights of the parties.

Chairman.] Under the Bill it is proposed to register these contracts.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] That would of course remove a great deal of the difficulty. Of course, if labour-tenancy were not in use a good deal of the land would be unoccupied. If I were a man of means I should not use labour-tenants. The native takes more out of the soil than could ever be covered by a wage. I think the loss will be felt in after years.

Chairman.] Suppose squatters were in the large majority of cases to become labour-tenants, I take it it would be the industrial centres that would suffer because it is in the industrial centres that they principally offer their services?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Yes. That is another fruitful source of trouble with the labour-tenant. It is a very unsatisfactory system from the administrative point of view.

Chairman.] We have had suggestions that Boschplaats, Wijnandskraal, and Sterkwater should be excluded as they are on the fringe of the area.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Portion of Wijnandskraal is already owned by natives.

Chairman.] Could you exclude the other portion of Wijnandskraal?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Yes, you could do that without interfering materially with the scheme. I should not press for the retention of Boschplaats and Wijnandskraal except the portion already owned by natives. Leeuwkraal also belongs to natives. Sterkwater might be cut out too. Still I do not see why you should oblige the individual. You might create a very embarrassing precedent.

With regard to Mr. Meyer's suggestion, I am not prepared to support it. The reason why Wolvehuiskraal and other farms were cut out is that I consider there are chances of irrigation.

I do not recommend any modification of Area 16 except that perhaps Boschplaats, Wijnandskraal, and Sterkwater might be cut out. You must give the natives room for expansion. The locations are absolutely cramped.

Chairman.] It has been suggested by district officers of the Waterberg District that a small portion of the Waterberg District on the southern boundary might be added to the native area.

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Yes, I think that is a good scheme. Makapan's people have bought a portion of Mr. Maggs' farm there. Those farms are almost entirely occupied by natives to-day. I see no reason why they should not be included. We must effect a settlement which will have the elements of permanency about it. I think my scheme will settle the question for two generations at least.

I know Chief Mfeni. He is one of our problems. Most of his followers are in the Middelburg District. They are spread over the high veld. After his father, old Mapoch, had been subdued, these natives were apprenticed. The idea was to get labour on the high veld. But for the Land Act these Mapoch natives would practically have owned the high veld. There was a real danger of the native pushing the white man off the high veld.

Chairman.] Mfeni has been to us and made an earnest appeal for land at or near Mapoch's. What do you feel about that?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] I feel that it is very undesirable to have Mfeni on the high veld. He would take his retinue with him, about three or four hundred souls, and would be a constant source of friction between the natives and the white people. He holds a sort of court, and that is the cause of considerable friction with the white farmers. He must be shifted therefore. He was, I believe, recognised as a chief after the war, and having recognised him I think the Government should provide him with an area on which to settle. He is quite well-behaved, and not likely to give any trouble.

Chairman.] What about the Secocoeni Ward in the Middelburg District? Would he be contented there do you think?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Yes, I think that would meet the position. He has lived on the high veld now for a good many years and is averse to returning to fever-country. If you got country which approximated climatically to the high veld it would be quite good enough. He is becoming very much attached to the high veld. I would strongly recommend that this chief be placed in a position of some dignity, which he cannot have unless he has some settled home. I think the whole tribe amounts to about 15,000 souls, but I believe one of his Indunas has seceded.

Mr. Boltman.] Why were the two farms Oskraal and Magalieslaagte left out of Area 16?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] In order to provide room for the Hartebeestpoort scheme. I recommended that in consultation with Mr. Hurley. I still recommend their exclusion.

With regard to open areas I should like to add here that I am opposed to either Area 16 or 17 becoming open areas. Historically the areas are and were meant to be native, and it was the intention of the old Republican Government that they should be native. To make them open areas, especially with the five years' limit as suggested by Mr. van Deventer, would simply lead to the exploiting of the native.

The area south of Area 17 consists of stony ridges except in the Elands River valley. There are only a very few patches that can be cultivated, and it is very sparsely occupied by natives. It is largely used by farmers who have small stock. It has never been of any real use to the natives, but it has been of use to the white farmers.

I have been told that I am giving away the best land to the natives. If that is so, why have the Europeans never occupied it? You cannot lose sight of the historical factor. Those natives were settled there by the old Republican Government. You must give them elbow-room to expand.

There is another thing I should like to mention—that is the desirability of having a branch of the Land Bank for the natives. That is very necessary. I think the natives are entitled to consideration. Relatively they are the most highly taxed class of the whole community.

Chairman.] Are any of the locations capable of being more closely settled than they are now?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] They are all over-crowded. I do not think you could get more natives into them. Some of the locations are abnormally crowded.

In the bushveld it is reckoned that you need four morgen to an ox. I cannot speak as to small stock, but Col. Opperman would know.

The locations in this district are proprietary locations.

We have a fairly large native urban population. These urban natives are employed principally in various industries and in domestic service in Pretoria. They live in locations and in native townships like Eerste Rust, where in most cases they have put up substantial dwellings. The women are engaged in washing. There is no form of local government in these townships. They have their church organisations which direct public opinion.

Chairman.] Would you consider some form of local government necessary?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] Yes, chiefly with a view to seeing that sanitary matters are attended to. Lady Selborne Township is under the Innesdale Village Council. I cannot say whether both black and white live there. There is a white township right up against it. That is undesirable. The Lady Selborne natives have to pay sanitary rates, and in that way the health of the European inhabitants is safeguarded.

Chairman.] Do you think these townships should be added to the schedule of native areas in accordance with the Bill?

Mr. Rose-Innes.] I think there is no other way out of it unless you are prepared to take away these people and expropriate them. They have been there for the last ten years at least. They have become attached to the place. I quite agree that conditions in such townships are infinitely better than in municipal locations.

WILLIAM IMPEY STANFORD DRIVER: Examined by Chairman.

I am Sub-Native Commissioner of the Nijlstroom sub-district, and have held that position since 1904. Before that I was a Native Commissioner in Rhodesia for about five years. I have had considerable experience of local conditions in the Waterberg District.

I know the Beaumont Areas in this district. Area 1 is average country. It is not very suitable either for natives or Europeans, but it is typical of all the country round about there. It is mostly bushveld and is more suited to grazing than anything else. The natives, however, do plough there. They do not get very good crops, but they are mostly pastoral. There is no tendency there to develop agriculturally. The rainfall is too low. On an average it is not more than 17 inches; indeed it is more likely to be under than over 17 inches. The crops are chiefly mealies and kaffir manna. The natives in this district are rich in cattle.

Chairman.] How much of Area 1 is occupied by natives?

Mr. Driver.] None of it, I think, except the location of Silica.

Chairman.] As a native administrator with experience of conditions in this country, would you be in favour of one area for the whole of the district?

Mr. Driver.] No, I think it is far more satisfactory to have separate areas so as to separate the tribes- both from an ethnological and sentimental point of view. It would be difficult to get one large considerable area. I do not think it feasible or advisable to eliminate Area 1 altogether and include it in a larger area. If any extension of this area is necessary it should come south so as to link up with Pic van Teneriffe. It is very difficult to estimate the value of land in Area 1, but broadly speaking I think that to-day 10s. a morgen would be a high average price for that region. Piccione bought a block of farms there and I do not think he paid as much as 10s. I do not know Area 2. I know the portion of Area 7 which falls into the Waterberg District.

Chairman.] It has been suggested that we exclude certain ten farms on the Olifants River.

Mr. Driver.] I am against that. I think there is plenty of scope further up the river. Water is fairly scarce and natives are dependent to a large extent on the Olifants. There are no boreholes there. If boreholes were put down perhaps the suggested exchange might be fair. It is not bad country on the whole. The alternative farms which it is suggested should be exchanged are a little better in some instances than the ten farms which it is proposed to exclude from the area. In the event of the projected irrigation scheme on the Olifants River I do not think it would be a hardship to exclude the riparian farms from the area. West of Zebediela's country there are some ranches which are little suited to anything but grazing. I do not think the suggested exchange would be a bad one.

Most of the natives living in my sub-district are the overflow from locations in the adjoining districts. Few had their original homes here.

District officers, including myself, recommended to the Beaumont Commission certain twenty farms adjoining Area 16—indicated in the map by a pencil mark. Three of these farms are owned by natives -half of Vogelstruispan, half of Haakdoornbult, the whole of Haakdoornkraal and Transactie. Of the other farms some belong to the Government and others to land-companies. There are only two Government farms that have been given out. I do not think any are personally and beneficially occupied. Welgelegen belongs to a company which started ranching and abandoned it. The other farms are used in winter by their owners for grazing. The Plat River is practically perennial. There are pools in dry seasons. The average value of land there is £1 per morgen. The rainfall is much the same as on the Springbok Flats—just under 23 inches. It comes in big lumps. Fifty per cent. of these twenty farms is arable. It is malarious along the Rietspruit and the Pienaars River.

Chairman.] Is that area largely occupied by natives?

Mr. Driver.] The western portion of it, that is, near the Plat River, is fairly thickly occupied by natives.

Chairman.] Why have you selected these farms?

Mr. Driver.] My reason is that this part of the country was originally the home of the Bakgathla and that it abuts on the native area in the Pretoria District. There are several thousand of the tribe living there now. Vanhanning was originally the home of

the tribe. It is not occupied by Europeans, and the natives have shown that they are very keen on buying land there. I think they have a right to have some provision made for them there. I do not know why the farms were excluded by the Commission. Their inclusion was strongly recommended by myself and Mr. Skirving. The presence of minerals may have had something to do with it, though I do not see how any industrial operations could have been prejudiced by the inclusion of this area.

The total native population of my sub-district is about 30,500 spread all over the area on farms. They are thickest in the south-west corner I have mentioned. They all belong to one tribe there.

Chairman.] Is there any difficulty in securing labour for farms?

Mr. Driver.] Labour is very scarce indeed. Ninety days' service is the usual term and they get as much land as they wish to cultivate and for grazing, but the natives have been getting so rich in cattle that labour has become very scarce. They are altogether opposed to working on farms. There is no tendency among the natives to accept a wage in preference to labour-tenancy conditions. They work from time to time, not ninety days on end. Most of these ninety-days people go out to work and stay away permanently or, at any rate, as long as six years.

Heads of families do to a certain extent go out to work after they have performed their ninety days' service. Their sons go out very largely and stay away, thus causing a shortage of labour.

Chairman.] What is the reason for their staying away?

Mr. Driver.] The attraction of town-life and of higher wages.

Chairman.] What is the average rent paid by the natives on these farms?

Mr. Driver.] £2 on private farms and £1 on Government farms. That is, for every male adult.

The position with regard both to rent and labour is very unsatisfactory in this district. Wages might overcome the difficulty if wages were paid equal to those prevailing in Johannesburg. The average farmer cannot compete with the mines. Farmers are not in a position to pay £2 10s. or £3 per month. It is quite true that the native takes more out of the soil, but the farmer has not the money with which to pay wages.

Chairman.] What proportion of these natives would as a result of legislation move into the native area?

Mr. Driver.] Very few until they are actually forced.

Chairman.] Do you think the licence-money will compel them to move?

Mr. Driver.] I think a great many natives would not leave—that is, those who are in a position to pay the tax as well as the licence.

Chairman.] Do you think there would be a tendency to offer their services for a wage if they could not meet this obligation?

Mr. Driver.] Yes, I think a great many would rather do that than move into the location. A lot of the natives in this district object to tribal rule. They left their locations for that reason. They would not go back if there were any possibility of their reverting to tribal conditions again. The natives who live away from the locations have progressed far more than those who live near the locations. In the central part of the district tribal influences do not exist at all. These natives shrink from returning to the authority of the chief. If any provision were made for them it would have to be made in such a way as not to bring them back under the communal system. Yet, broadly speaking, the native is not quite ripe for individual tenure. I know of only one farm owned by natives individually. It is not worked very satisfactorily. If a number of farms were cut up into three or four-morgen lots I think it would be acceptable to the natives. It would be well worth trying.

By Commandant Opperman.] I do not think it would be a good thing to eliminate Area 1 because the natives have been settled there for a long time. It would be much better for administration to have one compact area, but I am speaking from the natives' point of view. The natives round about Area 1 are not on good terms with the natives of Area 2.

By Chairman.] If the boundaries between the different tribes are clearly defined it does not much matter if they are in close proximity. Though tribal cleavage is still very marked artificial boundaries would overcome mutual antipathies. There is a feud between Shongane's people in Area 1 and the natives of Area 2.

In the west of the district we have Hereros. They are about a hundred families and have been here ten years. Some are living on companies' farms and working. They are becoming rich in stock. They are not the best of labourers on the farms, but they seem to be satisfactory on the mines. They do not intermarry with the other tribes. Their standard of living is higher than that of the average native. To a certain extent they are subject to tribal authority. Their chief is Samuel.

With regard to the portion of Area 17 falling into the Waterberg District—there are over a hundred families of the Bakgathla tribe living on the farm De Putten, the same tribe as the natives of Schildpadfontein. They have lived there since before the time of the Voortrekkers. They originally ploughed all over the Government farms in the neighbourhood. That is all the ground they have to plough upon.

Chairman.] Are there any natives living on the farms Opgeruimd and Goed-voor-alles?

Mr. Driver.] Those are Government farms and are used by the natives for ploughing. I would urge that these farms be not excluded from the native area. I say this because I understand that there is a movement to have the farms excluded from the native area. In my opinion it would be very unjust to exclude them. The natives have bought the farm Kalkfontein adjoining. It is true that the Springbok Flats is a white area, but I certainly think that the farms I mention should be made a native area.

Nijlstroom, 7th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

Also about 300 natives.

After the Chairman had addressed the meeting the following representative natives were heard.

REV. JACOB MAKONI: We think this is not the time to pass this law. It is not to say that we are fighting against this law. We humble ourselves before the Government, because we are its children. The thing we have in mind is our children at the war. We think this law should be postponed until the war is over. When our children have returned from the war, then let us discuss this law again.

CORNELIS MAKAPAN spoke to the same effect. He added, after the Chairman had addressed the meeting again: I am a chief of the Bakgathla, and live on the farm Vanheuning. My tribe has bought the farms Vogelstruispan, Transactie, Haakdoornkraal, and Haakdoornbult. We want these farms to fall into the native area. We want to live where these farms are. I ask particularly that Vanheuning be included. There are very many Bakgathla in that neighbourhood.

SALATIEL MAKAPAN spoke in support.

NOAH MATOUNG: I am a Bakgathla, and live on the farm Haakdoornkraal. I want that farm to fall into the native area, also the farms Cijferkuil and Rooipoort. I speak as Chief Makapan spoke.

AARONS MALOISANE and JOSEPH MOENG also spoke in support of Chief Cornelis Makapan.

APRIL SHONGOANE: I am chief of the Bathlaleroa tribe and live on the farm Pic van Teneriffe, which belongs to the tribe. I have been trying to buy farms near Pic van Teneriffe. First of all I applied for the farm Patatevlei, and was refused. Then I applied for the farms Buffelskraal and Orgendrift, and I was refused again. We want to buy these farms. That was our intention before this law was passed. We want those farms to fall into the native area. My natives are leaving my farm because it is too small. If the Government had allowed me to buy these farms my natives would not be scattered all about.

I know Area 1. We object to this area. Our fathers of old never lived in that part. It is only fit for wild animals. I should like to see Area 1 extended on both sides of the Palala.

HERMANUS LESOLOBI, a Bathlaleroa, spoke in support.

EDWARD CHAANE: I wish to make representations with regard to the farm Goed-voor-alles. I want to buy the farm. I am living there now with my people and have lived there forty-eight years. It is a Government farm, and I have paid rent for it ever since the war. We want that farm to fall into the native area.

SAMUEL MAHERERO: I am a chief of the Herero and I live on the farm Werkendam. I came with my people from Okahanja in the South-west Protectorate. We have been here eleven years. We want to live here and not return. We want to buy the farms Grietasvlakte, Gorkum, and Werkendam. We want those farms to fall into the native area.

JAN KEKAI: The land that the Government wants to give us is not fit for human beings. It is good only for animals. If the Government has any respect for us it would be better to cut off land for us in the places where we are living now. Why does the Government force us to do a thing we do not like. If the Government forces us to do a thing I know I have got to do it, but the Government must not think that I like what I am forced to do.

Other natives also spoke urging the postponement of the law until after the war

Potgietersrust, 5th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

Also the Magistrate, the Sub-Native Commissioner, and about thirty natives.

After the Magistrate and the Chairman had addressed the meeting, the following representative natives were heard.

ZEBEDIELA: We ask for an opportunity to think over this Bill. We have not had time to think over it. Our heads are not civilised like the white people, who grasp a thing immediately. We ask for time.

MATABATA: I am an Induna of Zebediela. I do not think the same as the last speaker. I shall state my views. I have come here on behalf of our people to make certain representations in connection with native areas. At Zebediela's we were shown ten farms which are to fall into the native area. We were told that any native who would like to buy these farms would be given permission to do so as soon as the areas were fixed by Government. I should like to know whether that area is meant for Zebediela's people or for any native from any part of the country. We are not satisfied with these ten farms, because our followers are many. When our people increase, where are they to buy? We should like the farms on this side of the location—Ongegund 2280, Groothoek 1992, Taaiboschlaagte, 2077, Wildebeestlaagte 2089, Uitzicht 1989, Grasplaats 2013, Doornrand 2075, Brakfontein 1985. These are the farms on which Zebediela's people belong. Some of them are ploughing there now. There are only three white people on Ongegund, Schaapplaats and Groethoek.

(Zebediela's people signify their approval by standing up.)

ANDREAS KEKANA: States he wants all the farms surrounding Zebediela's location to be included in the native area.

FRANS KEKANA: Thinks the question of areas should not be discussed at the present time. He is dissatisfied with areas as proposed.

MARCUS MASIBI: I am a chief and I live in my location in this district. I have come here to-day to meet the Committee.

Chairman.] Are you satisefid with the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission, and if not, will you say why not?

Marcus.] We are satisfied with the situation of the areas, but they are too small. The area should have been extended further on towards the Magalakwin. Later on I will hand in a list of the farms we want included. Some of these farms are already occupied by natives, some are not. They are not my people. Some of them are under Malaboch, and some under Matala, but all come under our Sub-Native Commissioner. Most of the farms belong to companies to whom the natives pay rent. The only water they get is from the Magalakwin. The natives are ploughing on these farms. They own a great quantity of stock.

The area provided by the Beaumont Commission is too small, and that is why I recommend this additional area.

There are other points I wish to bring up. I was selected by my tribe to come and speak to the Committee on their behalf. Mr. Dower, when he was here explained the whole Bill to us very fully.

There are six farms right in the centre of Area 2 which have been excluded. We should like those farms to fall into the native area too. These farms are between my location and Matala's. They are occupied by natives. I do not know whether they pay rent. The farms belong to Messrs. Schoeman, Jansen and others.

Then there is the Landsberghoek Location which we want included in the native area. This farm belongs to Chief Solomon.

I want also to speak on behalf of the Chief Nisibana Letoaba who lives with his people on the farm Makapansgat. This chief has no location. I should like the Committee to propose an area for him between Malietsie's, Machichaan's and Matala's locations. He should not be taken down to the Magalakwin, because he and his people are not used to the climate there.

With regard to Area 1, we are satisfied with the size of it, but it is sometimes very dry there, and I would suggest that the area be extended northwards to the Limpopo so that the natives may have a permanent supply of water.

MANKAPANI MASIBI: I am a chief living in my location in Area No. 2. I support what Marcus has said, especially with regard to the six farms in the centre of the area which were excluded by the former Commission.

SILICA: I am a chief and live with my tribe on the farms Lily and Beauty in Area No. 1. Area 1 is too small for my people. It should be extended northwards to the Limpopo because the Palala sometimes dries up. It dries up every year towards the end of the winter. I approve of what Marcus has said.

SOLOMON SILICA: I am a chief and live on the farm Bosschediesch in Area 1. I endorse what the other chiefs have said.

SOLOMON MARABA: (Speaks to the same effect.)

NISIBANA LETOABA: Also spoke in support of Marcus' representations.

Potgietersrust, 5th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

Examined: Burger Johannes Geldenhuis, and Harry Chatwin.

Mr. GELDENHUIS: We are both here in a representative capacity. Mr. Chatwin is chairman of the Farmers' Association, and we were chosen at a public meeting to appear before this Committee.

Mr. CHATWIN: The evidence to be given represents the feeling of the public meeting at which the Farmers' Association was represented.

Mr. Geldenhuis.] The feeling of the meeting was that the areas recommended by the Beaumont Commission were not in accordance with the wishes of the public here. It is not that they think that the present areas should be modified. They want quite other areas to be given. If segregation is to be really segregation, then all the ground from the Crocodile directly eastwards as far as the Committee may consider necessary should be given to the natives. I cannot say, however, whether the people of the Zoutpansberg would be content with this suggestion.

The public of the Waterberg consider that the natives should be provided for in one compact body from the Crocodile in such a way that the native areas of Waterberg and Zoutpansberg should adjoin one another. The public has no objection to the granting of Area 1, if necessary, but not if it forms a separate and isolated area. The people of this district want complete segregation. The objection they have to both Areas 1 and 2 is that the white people would be completely surrounded by natives, which is undesirable. The same applies to the non-native area between Malietsie's, Matala's and Machichaan's locations. It will be of no use having segregation if the whites are to live scattered about among the locations and reserves.

Chairman.] Can you say how the areas should run?

Mr. Geldenhuis.] The public has no objection to leaving the exact extent of the area to the Committee. They do not know how many natives there are and how much ground is required; so they cannot say how far the line should go. They say simply it should begin in the north of the district and extend as far as necessary. They think the locations in non-native areas should disappear eventually. They do not want the line to come south of Marcus Masibi's location; the natives should not be in too close proximity to the white population of Potgietersrust and its neighbourhood.

Mr. Chatwin.] At this public meeting it was not understood that it was possible to move the existing locations. There was an expression of opinion, but it was not supposed that you could take evidence on that point. The feeling of the meeting was that the existing locations were too near the town of Potgietersrust, and should be moved further north; also that the proposed extension is taking up land which is suitable for white settlement, and that more suitable land could be found for the natives. The land referred to is suitable for white occupation because of the proximity of the railway and because of the general situation and value of land in that quarter.

Chairman.] Did the meeting give you authority to say how the area should be altered?

Mr. Chatwin.] As Mr. Geldenhuis has said, they think a compact area should be given in the Waterberg and Zoutpansberg districts, and that the natives in the south should be moved to the north of the district. Of course it was realised that attention should be paid to the needs of administration. The meeting was in favour of the abolition of Area 1, and also of the removal of Valtijn's location.

Mr. Geldenhuis.] The value of land in Valtijn's is about 30s. a morgen, that in the substituted area to the north about 6s. or 7s. The land in Area 1 is about 7s. The value of land in the portion of Area 2 falling into the Pietersburg district averages 15s.

Mr. Chatwin.] The land towards the north in the substituted area is considered more suitable than the Beaumont area. There is water up there. The country would sustain a population of 15,000 and there is sufficient water for stock and for the natives themselves. I should say that 25 per cent. of it is arable. I cannot say what the rainfall is. In the locations the rainfall is about 20 inches. Perhaps it would average 15 inches in the substituted area. About 60 per cent. of the location is arable, and there is plenty of water.

The Magalakwin is not perennial, but the Limpopo is. The altitude of the locations is about 4,000 feet. The locations and the suggested area in the north are both malarious. The health conditions are about the same. The farms in the north belong chiefly to the Government. I do not think that farm labour would be prejudiced by the removal of the locations from the close neighbourhood of European settlements. That is my own personal opinion. I do not think farmers have extreme difficulty with regard to labour when they are close to locations. What difficulties there are can easily be surmounted.

Mr. Geldenhuis.] I have had no personal experience, but I know that people in this district who live close to locations have had no difficulty. They say they can get as much labour as they want. If the locations are taken away farmers will get their labour just as easily as they do now. The nearer the locations are to civilisation, the more difficult it is to get natives to work on the farms; they are more inclined to go to the mines. The feeling of the meeting was that if segregation is to be entire the areas should be as close together as possible. We do not want isolated areas all over the place.

Mr. Chatwin.] The reason given for that is that with the increase of the white population it might be found that the natives had been given land near the railway which would be required by white men, and then there would be trouble. We have to look ahead and consider our children. If the natives were given large areas close to the railway the white population would eventually have to go to the extreme north, and trouble and friction would be the result. The idea is also so far as possible to keep the natives together on the one hand and the white people on the other. There are two areas in this district. We should prefer to see the two linked up. Any extension of the areas should take place to the north, any curtailment to the south.

By Commandant Opperman.] How do the Magalakwin and Palala rivers compare?

Mr. Chatwin.] Neither of them has water always. The Crocodile is dry in some years like other rivers.

I know the country to the west of Area 2. There is water there—not in streams, but fountains. The country we propose is one of the best cattle districts in the Transvaal. The country to the east of Area 2 is not exactly the same as it is near the Machabin range. It is better and has a better soil.

It is true that the area we suggest is dry to a certain extent.

Mr. Chatwin.] In my opinion it is out of the question for anyone to give a definite opinion in the absence of any record of the rainfall.

We passed no resolution at our meeting with regard to Zebediela's location.

Mr. Geldenhuis.] With regard to the Landsberghoek Location I think it ought to be removed. I think the natives of that location should be sent to the general area wherever that may be.

Mr. Chatwin.] I have a personal opinion with regard to the area north of the location. It is that it should be reserved for white settlement. If that is handed over to the natives it will mean pushing the whites away from the railway. I have not considered where the existing locations should be removed. I should provide an additional area to link up with Area 1 extending if necessary into the Zoutpansberg. That land is required for white settlement. It would be a mistake to give it to the natives.

DANIEL PETRUS VAN ROOYEN: Examined by Chairman.

I have lived in Potgietersrust for 27 years. I know the country between Areas 1 and 2. It is bushy country, and in some places very dry. I cannot say exactly what the rainfall is, certainly not so much as at Potgietersrust.

I want to give information with regard to Valtijn's location and Landsberghoek. I think it would be a good thing to remove Valtijn and offer him four times as much land in the northern area. I would suggest ground along the Magalakwin. He would have water enough for his stock and in any case the native does not sow unless it rains. I do not know whether Valtijn's people would be content to go into Malaboch's country.

Valtijn's location borders on the village of Potgietersrust. I do not want to make an impossible proposal. I want the natives and the whites both to be satisfied. It is very difficult for me to say where the natives would be satisfied. I think at any rate the offer I suggest should be made to the natives. I do not say they will accept it. The locations of Mareus and Bakeberg have room for expansion, but that is not the case with Valtijn's. I would even suggest that Valtijn be offered six times as much land as he enjoys at present. In that case I think he ought to be satisfied.

With regard to Landsberghoek I would suggest that the Chief Solomon Maraba who occupies the farm at present be given three farms in exchange with sufficient water for his people and their stock. Landsberghoek is mostly rocky. Its value is about 10s. a morgen.

By Commandant Opperman.] I do not know the country very well between Areas 1 and 2, but I know that there is not much water. The soil is good. A great deal could be done with boreholes. It is lime country and there is water underground everywhere.

LESTER GOLDSWORTHY: Examined by Chairman.

I am Acting Sub-Native Commissioner at Potgietersrust, and have occupied that post for eleven months. I was stationed here however before that for three years. I have been all over my sub-district and know the conditions fairly well.

There are five locations in my area with a population of about 22,000. My total native population is 51,000. Of the balance some live on company and Government farms as rent-paying squatters, and others are labour-tenants.

Chairman.] Can you tell us what number of natives excluding those living in locations scheduled under Act 27 of 1913 live in the area recommended by the Beaumont Commission?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] In Area 2 there are about 3,000, in Area 1 not more than 600. In the portion of Area 7 which falls in my sub-district there are about 6,500. Altogether outside the areas there are about 25,000. I should say that about 55 per cent. of these last are squatters. The remainder are labour-tenants doing ninety days' service in consideration of a piece of ground to cultivate and grazing rights. There is no shortage of labour among farmers in this district. Some have more than they can do with.

Chairman.] How many morgen do you consider necessary on an average throughout Area 2 to sustain a native family of five, that is, arable land apart from grazing?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] Two morgen of arable land would actually keep them in food, reckoning ten bags of mealies to the morgen.

Chairman.] What percentage of Area 2 is arable and productive?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] It is a very difficult matter to say. Fifty per cent. of the locations is arable and productive, but the proportion progressively decreases as you proceed further north. The rainfall on the border of the Pietersburg and Waterberg districts is about 15 inches. In Valtijn's it is about 18 to 22. That is a very fertile location. Between 50 per cent. and 60 per cent. of it is arable and productive. The natives are debarred to a certain extent from making full use of it owing to the numbers of their cattle. But for the cattle they would be able to cultivate more than they do.

Chairman.] Are the existing locations capable of carrying any further population?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] The only one that could is Backeberg's. Perhaps in a lesser degree Zebediela's might, too—but decidedly not Marcus'.

The rainfall in Area 1 varies. In a good year they have twelve inches, sometimes only as much as 5. During the last three years about 6 inches has been the average. The altitude of Area 1 is about 2,000 feet. The area is malarious.

Chairman.] What percentage of Area 1 is arable?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] A very small percentage indeed, perhaps 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. The soil is very poor, red sandy in character and dry.

Chairman.] What minimum rainfall is necessary to produce a crop of mealies?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] The natives there do not grow mealies, but Kaffir-corn. They get a crop from 7 inches.

The value of land in that area is about 7s. 6d. a morgen. Most of the land in Area 1 is company land.

Chairman.] Is there a tendency among the natives to leave the locations and go out on to the farms either as rent-payers or as labour-tenants.

Mr. Goldsworthy.] Not to any great extent.

The rich native prefers to go out as a squatter. He has greater independence as a squatter. There are a fair number of such natives. I know of one who owns 2,000 head of cattle. He is on a Government farm Eendracht 356, and has two or three cattle-posts.

Chairman.] What sort of water supply is there between Areas 1 and 2?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] It is an absolute wilderness. There is no water supply whatever away from the river with the exception of three springs. These springs perhaps might water 1,000 head of cattle a day. There are no cattle there now. That region is uninhabited. From the farm Beauty in Area 1 right away to the farm Canton on the Magalakwin there is not a single native family with the exception of two on the farm Oporto where one of the springs I have mentioned is. There are no natives because the ground is unproductive.

Chairman.] What about the Magalakwin?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] It is not perennial. It is dry for four months in the year. By digging in some parts perhaps enough water for stock might be obtained. By having storage reservoirs perhaps it might be possible to dam up sufficient water to sustain stock during the dry period.

Chairman.] Do you think it likely that the natives living in the south of your district would be content to occupy the area lying between the middle of Area 1 and the extreme north-western portion of Area 2 that is, north of that line?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] Not for a moment, and not even if they got three times as much land as they are occupying at present. There is a marked difference in the character of the soil in the southern portion of the district and in the extreme north. In Valtijn's the soil is turf and red loam. It is good soil.

Chairman.] Do you consider Areas 1 and 2 and the portion of 7 adequate to the needs of the natives now and for the next ten years to come, having regard to the increase for that time?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] Yes, for the natives of this sub-district.

Chairman.] Do you recommend any modification of the area or any extension?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] I should like to recommend again what was the original recommendation to the Beaumont Commission, namely the inclusion of the six farms lying between Matala's and Machichaan's locations. I think from an administrative point of view it would be much better. These six farms are situate right in the centre of Area 2. There are only eighteen native families there at present. Eleven of them are labour-tenants, and seven squatters. Four of the farms are personally and beneficially occupied by Europeans. They are Government property leased under the Crown Lands Disposal Ordinance. The occupants carry on stock-farming, and agriculture to a certain extent, the crops being mealies and tobacco. I recommend also that Solomon Maraba's location be included in a native area.

Chairman.] How would you propose to link it up?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] I do not propose to link it up at all. I should create a little black island where it is now. I cannot recommend that the intervening farms be included in a native area.

Chairman.] Would it be possible to provide for those natives elsewhere?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] It might be possible to provide for him in the Pietersburg district in close proximity to Machichaan's location, say on the southern side. My reason for saying so is that the altitude in the location is considerably higher than in Area 2. The altitude of Maraba's is 5,000 feet, on the group of six farms referred to it is about 3,500 feet. There is no malaria in Maraba's. The natives in that locati n have lived there from time immemorial, and I am sure that, if they were transferred to a low-lying area they would suffer terribly.

Chairman.] Are the natives developing pastorally or agriculturally?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] They are an essentially pastoral people in this district. The country lends itself to stock-rearing. The natives have never grown more than sufficient food for themselves.

The birth-rate is about 5 per cent., but for the last ten years the population has been stationary. There is a great deal of malaria throughout the district. The natives suffer very much indeed. There has been a diminution in the ravages of the disease during the last four years owing to the medicines issued to the natives. The medicine is having a beneficial effect.

Chairman.] Does cultivation improve health conditions?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] I cannot say I have noticed that.

Maraba and his people have been in their location for generations. They came originally from Marabastad in the Pietersburg district. Marabastad is a little lower than their present location.

Chairman.] Could you not by a system of bore-holes make the country between Areas 1 and 2 habitable for stock?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] No, the land is poor. It is a barren waste. This may be due to lack of water, but the land is very poor. Up towards the Limpopo there are some very fine springs. The northern corner of Area 1 is inhabited.

Chairman.] What proportion of your natives altogether go out to the mines from your sub-district?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] About 70 per cent. A very small proportion are farm labourers. I should say about 5 per cent.

By Commandant Opperman.] The area between Areas 1 and 2 is not so good as the northern portion of Area 2.

You can always get water in the Magalakwin by digging a few feet down.

Chairman.] There is a suggestion that the farms lying to the south of Zebediela's should be excluded because of an irrigation scheme which is projected on the Olifants River. If other provison were made for Zebediela do you see any objection?

Mr. Goldsworthy.] To my mind it would be difficult to compensate him adequately. The idea was to give them a river frontage. If boreholes were given him perhaps the ten farms might be excluded. I think the white man makes better economic use of irrigation schemes than the native. All things being equal it would be better to exclude areas where such irrigation schemes might be undertaken.

LOUIS PEENS: Examined by Chairman.

I am one of the members chosen by the public here to make representations to the Committee. I live in Potgietersrust. I want to give evidence on the same lines as the other witnesses.

I know Areas 1 and 2. We are not satisfied with those areas. We say that if the Government wants to give areas to the natives it should demarcate areas in the north between Areas 1 and 2. We feel that in time to come the white man will have to live

there, and that if the white man can live there the native can too. The locations already granted may remain.

By Commandant Opperman.] White people are living along the Crocodile. There are white people living not very far from Silica's location. They have not been there long.

By Chairman.] We do not want black islands among the white people. We want proper segregation. I would not link up all the existing separate areas, but should be in favour of abolishing them altogether and granting one large area in the north sufficient for all the natives.

Nijlstroom, 7th December, 1917.

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN, COMMANDANT OPPERMAN, and MR. BOLTMAN.

GERT JOHANNES ABRAHAM SMIT: Examined by Chairman.

I am a farmer and J.P. and live on the farm Hoogbult, near Naboomspruit. I have been chosen by a public meeting to give evidence here as representing the Springbok Flats.

With regard to Area 7, we want certain ten farms to be excluded. The Olifants River runs through these farms, and there are irrigation possibilities. As compensation certain eight farms on the west might be added to the area. These farms are not occupied except Reserve and Volop. The Government valuation is 6s. a morgen. They are partly arable, but are very bushy. There are no natives there at present.

By Commandant Opperman.] Apart from the question of irrigation possibilities the farms I suggest as compensation are better than the farms we want excluded. If I had to choose I should certainly choose them in preference to the others.

By Chairman.] The natives in the location get their water from the river which runs through the location. This river does not always run, but there are pools in dry seasons. The natives south of the location get their water from the Olifants.

With reference to Area 2, we have objections to the locations being so close up against the village of Potgietersrust. The locations should be removed to a respectable distance from the village. We propose that the location be cut out north of Rietfontein and the natives placed on the northern part of the area. I can make no other suggestion as to the disposal of the natives in the location. Our opinion is that the reserve is quite big enough without making other provision for Valtijn.

By Commandant Opperman.] I do not know the ground in the neighbourhood of Area 2.

We think there will be trouble if the location is so near the town.

By Chairman.] With reference to Area 1, we think it is unsound to have such a small black area in the midst of the white area. We think the natives there ought to go into the larger area.

With regard to the licence money, I think the 10s. tax on labour tenants is too much.

We think a limit should be placed on the period during which the tax must be paid on squatters.

SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANNEXURES.

Leslie Township,
Bethal, Transvaal,
10th January, 1918.

NATIVE AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BILL.

To the Secretary of the House of Assembly,
Cape Town and Commission,
Native Adminstration Bill, Bethal.

The Leslie native landed property owners' claim stands as follows:—

1. The natives had the privilege as buyers of stands in the Leslie Township prior to the Native Land Act of 1913 from Mr. Wm. Whyte, of Box 1831, Johannesburg.

2. There are seven natives who hold Deeds of Transfers in the Leslie Township, viz.: Stanton Nzoyi, Stand No. 41; Revd. Paulus Nyathela, Stands Nos. 8 and 9; Ishmael Nyathela, Stand No. 7; Alex Msagoe, Stand No. 4; Job Sibanyoni, Stand No. 22; Diamond Ndimande, Stands Nos. 102 and 103; and Hosiah Rakulu, Stand No. 18.

3. There are other natives who bought prior to the Act and signed declarations of purchase, namely: Ben Nkomo, Stands 12 and 13; Mathew Mpunzi, Stands 19 and 20; Simon Maniutsa, Stands 16 and 17; Lukas Sibanyoni, Stand No. 21; Paulus Nyat'ela, Stands 254—263.

4. The provincial purchasers are as follows:—(1) Samuel Hlatzwayo, Lot 10; (2) Abel Ngubeni, Lot 39; (3) Moses N'Kosi, Lot 24; (4) Mahula Vilakazi, Lot 23; (5) Amos Tang Kwazo, Lot 3; (6) Esau Molife, Lot 6; (7) David Mahlatsi, Lot 11; (8) Stanton Nyozi and Co., 21 erven; (9) there are still more stands standing in the native place.

5. The Leslie Township for native township is desirable, as it is near industrial centres of farmers. The Leslie Township natives are doing good with the farmers; no more confusion or complaints about pay and agreements.

6. The Leslie natives are praying for the privilege they had prior to the Native Land Bill of ploughing on shares with white people.

7. The following native townships are in the centre of industrial towns in Transvaal: New Ermelo Township; Leslie Township (district Bethal); Balfour Township (district Heidelberg); Sophia Township; Alexander Township; Kliptown and Evaton, in Johannesburg district.

8. Leslie Township was divided into two parts or sides, one side for European and one side for natives in the year 1904-1905.

The natives in their side have no grave-yard or stands for the graves given.

There are not less than twenty graves of the dead persons scattered in the stands of the friends of the dead.

There is spare ground of the Leslie Township close to the native stands.

There is no school ground or church ground.

9. The Leslie natives of the township pray the Committee to see with us the necessity of granting more stands and the above ground mentioned to be sold to the natives by Wm. Whyte and Turpin, Ltd., of Box 1831, Johannesburg.

(Sgd.) STANTON MZOYI (Secretary).
PAULUS NATELA.

Uitkijk, P.O. Nebo,
4th January, 1918.

The Chairman,
Native Area Demarcation Commission,
Room 4, Artillery Barracks,
Pretoria.

Sir,

During the month of September last, while your Commission sat at Pokwani, certain gentlemen appeared to give evidence and represented to you that they were voicing the opinions of residents and owners in the district of Pokwani. Subsequent to the sitting I notified you verbally that I protested against the action of these gentlemen and that in my opinion they were speaking without authority. This I now confirm, and I enclose herewith a protest signed by several residents in the neighbourhood of Pokwani. I personally also protest against the action of those gentlemen and can assure you, Sir, that the residents of Pokwani and neighbourhood gave these gentlemen no mandate and that what they advocated is entirely contrary to the general wishes of people in that neighbourhood. I do not wish in any way to place obstacles in the way of the Government, but

I do protest against irresponsible persons giving advice which may result in grave injustice being done to persons who are anxious to see a just and equitable solution of the question at issue.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) F. MIESSNER.

Translation.

22nd October, 1917.

We, the undersigned residents of the Sekukuni Ward, District of Middelburg, hereby declare that we are entirely satisfied with the boundary line between white and native areas as laid down by the Beaumont Commission.

We also further declare that the gentlemen who gave evidence before the Committee at Pokwani had no mandate from the public to recommend a new boundary.

L. J. Zietsman, J. N. Boshoff, D. J. Koekemoor, N. J. J. Swart, D. R. Malan, J. W. Swart, J. F. Swart, F. S. Botha, H. J. Nel, A. J. Botha, A. J. Luus, F. Wessels, W. P. J. Wessels, J. J. Wessels, T. C. D. Corma, D. D. Schutte, L. J. B. Luus, P. D. Malan, P. L. Zietsman, C. J. Engelbrecht, D. J. Kruger, E. H. T. Engelbrecht, C. T. Venter, A. J. v. d. Pool, A. J. Swanepoel, M. C. J. v. Schalkwijk, C. J. Engelbrecht, J. van Greuning, J. P. J. Coetzer, H. Engelbrecht, C. J. Engelbrecht, M. B. Brits, J. J. H. Engelbrecht, J. J. Britz, G. Wessels, P. V. Strydom, E. v. d. Merwe, J. A. de Beer, A. J. Luus, W. Richter, C. B. Visagie, C. A. Richter, J. H. Reiners, T. P. Richter, T. C. Engelbrecht, E. T. Pretorius, T. L. Pretorius, J. J. Coetzer, P. W. Coetzer.

LESLIE G. GILLESPIE,
Bergplaats,
Piet Retief, Transvaal.

1st January, 1918.

The Chairman,
Transvaal Provincial Native Lands Commission,
Sitting at Welkom Police Station, Dist. Piet Retief, Transvaal.

Dear Sir,

I regret my inability to attend personally before your Commission sitting at Welkom, partly because of extreme pressure of farm work, owing to the lateness of the present planting season, because of the almost constant heavy rains, and partly for another reason which I shall give later on.

I wish to give a few views on the native lands question in writing, however, as it affects this Ward No. 2, District Piet Retief. Please do not read this letter in public session, as I am making my remarks for the members of the Commission, our local Magistrate and for the information of the Government only.

For my general views on the native lands question I would ask the Commission to refer to the lengthy evidence given by me before the Native Lands Commission (appointed under the Act of 1913) sitting at Ermelo, which evidence is printed in the large Blue Book of evidence, accompanying the Report of that Commission.

As regards the delimitation of native areas in this Ward No. 2 of the District of Piet Retief, I have no objection to urge, as the Commission practically adopted the area suggested by me when giving evidence at Ermelo.

We (and now I speak for myself and for other landowners represented by me in this district) have very great objection to many points in the Act of 1917, but as that measure has been confirmed by the Government, it does not seem to us to be of much use to now urge these objections.

We are of opinion that European-owned land, falling within a native area, should be expropriated outright, at a fair valuation, as there is no chance whatever of such land being purchased by natives.

As to non-native areas, we, as owners, cannot agree to paying any squatting licences for native tenants whatever, as such licences could not be recovered from the rent-paying natives by us, in addition to the present rental of £1 per wife, which we at present charge and which rental is very small, I think, you will admit. What we shall do is to give all squatting natives notice to leave our farms, as we do not want them, it their presence on

the ground puts us under onerous obligations to the Government for taxes. We shall of course leave the onus of removing such squatters on the Government.

We cannot agree to the Government having the right to allow old and infirm natives to reside on private farms, except entirely at the discretion of the owner of the ground, who may make application to retain such natives, should he so wish.

Our general policy, when the Act comes into force, will be to select all the necessary able-bodied natives, with their dependents, who are suitable for and willing to become farm labour tenants, and have them registered as such. The other natives will be given notice to leave the farms, and we shall expect the Government to see to their prompt removal, as we do not wish to have unregistered vagrant natives on the ground, for whom we cannot be held responsible, and whose continued presence on the ground might have a disturbing effect on the farm labour tenants.

We wish the natives to understand that we have nothing whatever to do with these removals, and that the measure proceeds from the Government, who alone are responsible for any evil results from the enforcing of the new measure; what these evil results are likely to be the honourable members of your Commission are in quite as good a position to judge of as I am.

We shall of course comply with the new law if it is enforced, but we must record our protest against practically the whole of Chapter III as affecting non-native areas. We object to many other parts of Act, but as the Government has already declared its intention of forcing the measure into law in spite of everything, it seems scarcely worth while to touch on them, and in view also of the fact that I understand your Commission is more concerned with the delimitation of native areas than with the terms of the Act in general. That being so, it does not seem right or advisable for me to go into our objections to the new measure at greater length than I have already done. Should your Commission or the Government wish to have more information from me, as affecting this densely native populated part of the district, I shall be happy to afford them an opportunity at a later date, say during February or March in Pretoria or even Cape Town, if that is more suitable, as I shall then be more at leisure.

Apart from my inability to be present at Welkom to-morrow because of extreme pressure of work, I have another very sufficient reason why I do not wish to appear at Welkom, and it is this:

During the five years I was Resident Justice of the Peace for this ward I had occasion at times to be very severe with the natives in many matters, such as the strict control of cattle movements during the long years East Coast Fever was present in this ward, quarantining of cattle, Game Laws, etc. More recently I have been largely the cause of the introduction of compulsory dipping of both European-owned and native-owned cattle, which has been much resented by the natives, who blame me very much for my action in the matter, although it has been all for their own good, but they cannot see it that way.

Natives, I understand, have been asked to appear at Welkom before your Commission. If I go there or even to Piet Retief to give evidence, they will see me, as I am particularly well known amongst them under the name of "Matunduluza". They will at once jump to the conclusion that I have something to do with this new measure of iniquity. This I do not want them to think, as when the enforcement of the law begins I shall be blamed by them for another severe measure, or as they put it, "killing them."

I am honestly of opinion that when this measure is enforced there will be a rebellion of our natives, and I do not want to appear to them as one who has been instrumental in bringing the measure into being, as I might be the first to suffer at their hands for my supposed action. This is my well considered opinion and in no way alarmist. I have been here in control of natives for the past 23 years. I know our native and what he is likely to do under certain circumstances. I wish to warn the Government that it is going to have serious trouble in this district if it attempts to enforce the Act of 1917.

It must be borne in mind that our natives come of a warlike stock. They are hearing many accounts of the great world war and there are agitators about amongst them. The enforcement of this Act might well be the spark that might lead to a general conflagration and the sacrificing of the lives of many Europeans in these outlying parts.

I appeal to the Government to well consider all aspects of this far-reaching question before committing themselves to some irrevocable step.

Politically I am a strong supporter of the Government, but in this matter I cannot agree with the action taken and consider it is fraught with grave possibilities.

I trust you will not think me presumptuous in giving advice where it is perhaps not desired. Please, however, take it in the spirit in which it is given by one who has spent more than half his life closely in touch with the native question in many of its aspects, and who can claim at least to have some knowledge of his subject.

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

LESLIE G. GILLESPIE.

NEW SCOTLAND LAND COMPANY.

133 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow, Scotland,
10th July, 1917.

The Secretary for Native Affairs,
Government Buildings,
Cape Town.

Native Affairs Administration Bill, 1917.

Sir,

I have the honour, upon the instructions of the Directors of this Company, to submit through you to the Department of Native Affairs and the Government of South Africa the following consideration in connection with this Bill.

The Board of Directors do not object to the principle of the Bill. They are of the opinion that it would be of some advantage if more definite lines were drawn between the native population and the white population of the Colony, but they are strongly opposed to the method to be adopted under the Bill for carrying this out.

The Directors agree to certain areas being selected for the settlement of the natives, but they adopt the resolutions passed at a special meeting of the members of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association held in Johannesburg on the 27th February of this year. These resolutions are as follows:—

> Resolved: That this special meeting of members of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association convened in order to discuss the terms of the draft Native Affairs Administration Act, 1917, whilst sympathising with the objects sought to be attained considers:—
>
> (1) That the proposed areas to be set aside under the Bill are in many respects unsuitable.
>
> (2) That its proposals regarding native squatters in non-native areas are of such a nature that they must result in the wholesale eviction of thousands of native families. The enforcement of the law as drafted will result in serious loss and severe hardships to both land owners and natives, and will give rise to a general feeling of insecurity and alarm, more especially amongst natives.
>
> (3) That the draft Bill in its present form is inequitable in that it will seriously diminish the value of private farms included in the proposed native areas by placing great restrictions on their sale.
>
> (4) Some of the provisions of the Bill curtail the rights of the individual to claim the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of law of the country, and confer unusual powers on the Governor-General.
>
> (5) That this Association views with great concern the proposals to extend the powers of the Special Justices of the Peace (in the Special Justices of the Peace Act, 1917, which would apear to have a considerable bearing on the Native Affairs Administration Act, 1917) to deal with contraventions of laws regarding vagrancy, native pass laws, taxation and squatting of natives, and contends that such matters should be left to be dealt with by the Native Affairs Department.

I accordingly forward the resolutions as the opinion of this Company.

I am desired to point out further that the land which belongs to this Company proposed to be included as part of the area appropriated to the natives is unsuitable for that purpose. The natives will in all probability require only limited areas and will necessarily require the most fertile soil.

In a large area or farm of 3,000 morgen there is a sufficient diversity of soil to permit of the land being profitably occupied, but a native will purchase only a small area and naturally will select the richest soil, leaving the poor part on the hands of the Company. These areas would be practically unsaleable or saleable on such reductions as would more than absorb any profit made upon a sale of the richer portions. A considerable proportion of the area of the land belonging to the Company is of such a quality that it can only be utilised along the richest part of the land.

I have further to point out that the area of the Company's land proposed to be taken forms a very large proportion of the total property held, about 66 per cent., and looking to the terms upon which the land can be held by the Company and sold only to natives, this is too large a proportion to take from one Company without any compensation from the Government.

My Company consider that if the Government, for public purposes and for the public advantages, wishes to appropriate land for native occupation alone, granting such limited powers of sale to the white population as to be really of no value, the Government ought

to purchase the land from the present proprietors and sell it to the natives at such prices as they can procure. It would be most unfair to parties who have embarked their capital in land in the Colony to have it expropriated for a benefit which the public would thus reap without payment.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Secretary.

THE BOURKE TRUST AND ESTATE CO., Ltd.

Pretoria, Transvaal.
P.O. Box 321. 25th January, 1918.

The Secretary,
Eastern Transvaal Natives Land Committee,
4, Artillery Barracks, Pretoria.

Sir,

With reference to the evidence which was given by Mr. E. F. Bourke before you on Monday last with regard to the objection to the inclusion of certain farms in the Lydenburg District, which form part of the block known as the O'Reilly Block, in Native Area No. 7, we attach hereto a list of the farms constituting the said block, twenty in number, giving the area of each. Of the farms in this block it is proposed to include Edinburgh 163, Margate 164, Richmond 165, Portsmouth 179, Liverpool 178, Southampton 176, Derby 184, and Essex 190 in the Native Area No. 7. As already notified, we object to this, and have given our reasons therefor, that same are unsuitable for a native area, or that either the whole must be included in the native area or all the farms excluded.

The total area of these farms is 63,420 morgen, 468 roods, and we estimate the value at 10s. per morgen, excluding the mineral rights. We may say that an offer has been made for a farm adjoining this block at this figure, excluding mineral rights.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. DEY,
Secretary.

Names and areas of farms belonging to Messrs. E. F. and B. T. Bourke and the estate of the late F. A. English situated in the Lydenburg District to the inclusion of which in Native Area No. 7 objection is lodged:—

Edinburgh, No. 163	...	...	...	3,341	morgen	202 roods.
Margate, No. 164	...	...	...	3,199	,,	557 ,,
Richmond, No. 165	...	...	...	2,638	,,	547 ,,
Portsmouth, No. 179	...	...	...	3,352	,,	242 ,,
Liverpool, No. 178	...	...	...	3,080	,,	310 ,,
Southampton, 179	...	...	...	2,688	,,	542 ,,
Derby, No. 184	...	...	...	2,876	,,	60 ,,
Essex, No. 190	...	...	...	2,680	,,	220 ,,
Glencoe, No. 176	...	...	...	3,869	,,	401 ,,
Rome, No. 181	...	...	...	3,885	,,	442 ,,
Cambridge, No. 175	...	...	...	3,803	,,	425 ,,
Berlin, No. 174	...	...	...	2,939	,,	481 ,,
Amsterdam, No. 180	...	...	...	3,107	,,	401 ,,
Paris, No. 188	...	...	...	2,469	,,	200 ,,
Middlesex, No. 162	...	...	...	3,493	,,	380 ,,
Oxford, No. 177	...	...	...	2,544	,,	350 ,,
Vienna, No. 166	...	...	...	3,751	,,	380 ,,
York, No. 189	...	...	...	3,364	,,	526 ,,
Brussels, No. 168	...	...	...	3,235	,,	32 ,,
Epsom, No. 187	...	...	...	3,096	,,	370 ,,
				63,420	morgen	468 roods.
@ 10/- per morgen	...	...		£32,710	5s.	0d.

NATIVE AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BILL.

At the meeting of the Ermelo District Branch of the South African Native National Congress held at the location the 2nd day of January, 1918, to discuss the above Bill as well as the advisability of making representations before the Natives Land Committee which is to sit in Ermelo on the 8th January, 1918, it was resolved as follows:

1. That this meeting does not approve the Native Affairs Administration Bill together with its principles or any of its provisions whatsoever.

2. That this meeting very earnestly and urgently requests the Committee to recommend to the Government and Parliament that this legislation be postponed until 12 months after the declaration of peace and before such legislation is resumed the people directly concerned should be consulted.

3. While totally disapproving the principles of segregation or territory separation on the lines of the proposed legislation, and seeing that there is no proposed native area in this district or in the high veld in the Eastern Transvaal, this meeting strongly request the Land Committee to recommend the Parliament that the district of Ermelo as well as the Eastern Transvaal be declared neutral so as to be exempt from the Natives Land Act, 1913, in such manner that natives may purchase or hire land as heretofore.

4. It is further resolved that the following (five) 5 gentlemen be the representatives of this Branch before the Land Committee and give evidence on the above points, viz.: Revds. S. P. Tutt, J. J. Mngadi, Messrs. J. M. Hlubi, S. B. Siluma and J. Msimang.

Tomango, Nelspruit,
6th December, 1917.

The Secretary,
Eastern Transvaal Natives Land Committee,
Department of Native Affairs,
Union Buildings, Pretoria.

Dear Sir,

Yours of the 1st to hand.

I am quite agreeable to your publishing my letter of 26th November to your Chairman, and your reply to it dated 1st December, 1917, together with the report of my evidence given in Barberton.

Yours truly,
(Sgd.) HUGH L. HALL.

EASTERN TRANSVAAL NATIVES LAND COMMITTEE.

Pietersburg,
1st December, 1917.

H. L. HALL, Esq.,
Tomango, Nelspruit.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, the Committee, after considering the matter fully, has directed me to reply as follows:—

1. With regard to the alleged omission of the reference made by you to the sugar cane as an important product capable of being produced in a certain area, the Committee has no recollection of your having referred to this matter at all, but is prepared to incorporate what you now say on this point in its report of your evidence.

2. You deny having made the statement ascribed to you on the subject of the linking up of the Lydenburg and Barberton Areas. My own recollection and the recollection of the Committee is that, though the words used were the Chairman's, they were put to you in the form of a question and answered in the affirmative. If you desire it, question and answer will be shown separately in the Report, but the Committee cannot now sanction any modification amounting to a direct contradiction of what you personally declared before them in evidence.

3. Komati is a typographical error for Lomati The necessary amendment will be made in the Report.

4. With regard to your statement that you know of no such river as the Pretorius River which is referred to in the report of your evidence, I can only say that such a river appears on the Committee's map of the district, on which your examination was based. Whether you said Pretorius Kop Road, as you now allege, or Pretorius River, as appears from the report of your evidence, is fortunately of no great importance, but my Committee naturally adheres to its own version.

My Committee feels that it is most regrettable that there should be any discrepancy between your and their version of your evidence, but thinks that possibly the difficulty may be overcome by their publishing your letter and their reply together with the report of your evidence. I presume you will have no objection to this course.

C. P. BOND,
Secretary.

Tonango, Nelspruit,
November 26th, 1917.

The Chairman,
The Natives Land Committee,
Pretoria.

Dear Sir,

My evidence as published in the "Gold Fields News" and "Barberton Herald" on the 20th is misleading and incorrect in very many instances. When asked by you what could be grown, I also mentioned sugar cane. This you have omitted to include, and as it is a very important crop, should be included. I made no suggestion about linking up with the Lydenburg area; that suggestion came from you, and the following was not my evidence: "In order to link up with Lydenburg area I would suggest that the line should follow the river past Madras up to Boschhoek, thence down the boundary of the Lydenburg District up to and including Bulffontein 248, and thence in a direct line to the boundary of the Sabi Ward." I made no such statement.

You asked me many questions about the farms there, and I told you that Perry was dead, that he had left his farm to Wolhuter and that it was unoccupied, that Burgershall was occupied by Cameron, who had a store there; Klipkoppies and some others were company's ground or private owners, and Bultfontein was Government ground. (I have since heard that Perry's farm is occupied).

I stated that the reason why farmers did not occupy the farms on the Lomati (not Komati) was that it had been owned by an English company, who had spent about £10,000 on it, and had lately sold it to a syndicate, who were represented by Mr. Forbes.

I never mentioned a line along the Pretorius River. I know of no such river. I stated: "As for taking the line along the *Pretorius Kop Road* from the Crocodile River to where it joined the road to Mambatein's Drift, the same thing applied, *i.e.*, not sufficient water for the natives during the winter months."

I would suggest that seeing the ground all to the west of this road is suitable for natives, but cannot be made use of on account of the shortage of water during the winter months, that the Government have catch water dams made over this area which would hold sufficient water for the natives and their stock during the winter months, and such dams could be constructed by them under white supervision.

You would then have ample ground for all your natives for some years to come. When I stated 2,000 or 3,000 natives I meant tax-paying natives, not women and children. I have since heard that the 31,000 natives you wish to provide for include women and children.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Editor of the Barberton paper for publication.

Yours truly,

(Sgd.) HUGH L. HALL.

LOW VELD (N.E.) FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

Nelspruit,
December 3rd, 1917.

E. T. STUBBS, Esq.,
Chairman, Natives Land Committee,
Pretoria.

Sir,

We, the undersigned, were appointed the sub-committee to deal with the matter contained in the resolution which was passed at an extraordinary general meteing of this Association on December 1st, 1917 (and which was called specially to discuss our delegates' evidence given before your Committee), and which reads as follows:—

> "That, as Captain G. J. Elphick, one of the delegates representing an important district body, the Low Veld (N.E.) Farmers' Association, has (in his evidence as reported in the 'Goldfields News' and 'Barberton Herald') so totally misrepresented the views of that Association, and as these misstatements are so vital, not only to individuals, but in the interests of the whole district, that a sub-committee of two members and the Secretary be appointed to draw up a letter to be sent to the Natives Land Act Committee regretting to have to repudiate the whole of Captain Elphick's

evidence, as reported, relating to Sections E and F west of the western boundary of the Sabie Game Reserve and to enumerate the points, and that this Association asks the Committee to take Mr. Hall's evidence *alone* as reported and plus the corrections as sent in his letter as published as representing the views of this Association with reference to Sections E and F. A copy of this letter to be sent to the 'Barberton Herald.'"

Now, Sir, both Mr. H. L. Hall's and Captain Elphick's evidence has been published in the "Barberton Herald" as arranged between your Committee and themselves; but both these gentlemen expected proofs to be sent to them for revision, if necessary, before publication, as it is customary to do in such cases. *This your Secretary failed to do.*

Mr. H. L. Hall states that his evidence as reported is substantially correct, and what errors there are in this report he has corrected in a letter to yourself, which he has also had published in the local paper.

Captain Elphick states that his evidence, as reported, is a very long way from being correct; he very emphatically denies that he stated he would give the *whole* of Sections E and F as a native area, and declares there must have been some error in transcribing from shorthand to longhand his evidence in this respect. What he says he actually recommended was the area as described in Mr. Hall's evidence only. However, there is so much of his evidence (*as published and which he denies having stated*) which is at variance with the opinions of this Association that we would ask you to cut out the whole of Captain Elphick's evidence relating to the area recommended as a native area in place of Areas 18 and 19- and take only Mr H. L. Hall's in respect thereto as the opinion of this Association.

We trust you will do this when discussing the matter and making your final recommendations, as by taking in the whole of Sections E and F you render more than 70 voters homeless *in the White River area alone*!

We are, yours truly,

(Sgd.) PERCY WILHELM.
THOS. MOORE.
G. ROBT. HAMMERTON,
Secretary.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Department of Native Affairs,
Union Buildings, Pretoria,
17th January, 1918.

2680/13/814.

Native Affairs Administration Bill.

The Secretary,
Eastern Transvaal Natives Land Committee,
4, Artillery Barracks, Pretoria.

I have the honour to acknowledge your Minute of the 14th instant in regard to the evidence given by Mr. F. T. Nicholson touching upon the native locations in the proposed Native Area No. 16.

In reply I have to state that Mr. Nicholson presumably refers to the farms Hoekfontein No. 394 (Sjambok's Location) and Goedgewaagd No. 465 (Zwaartbooi's Location), as all the other farms included in the native locations in this area are tribal property.

As regards the two farms specified these were recommended to be set apart as native locations by the Native Location Commission of 1884 and confirmed by the Commission of 1907, and I have not been able to discover any condition attaching to the reservation such as Mr. Nicholson refers to.

(Sgd.) M. G. APTHORP,
for Secretary for Native Affairs.

STATEMENT concerning the undermentioned farms, situated in the Pretoria District of the Transvaal Province:—

These farms are the property of the family of Mr. J. P. Meyer, Klipriviersberg, Box 496, P.O. Johannesburg, and are apparently included in the scheduled area of that portion of the Transvaal which is set aside for occupation by natives, in accordance with the Native Affairs Administration Bill, A.B. 6—'17, as published in "The Government Gazette Extraordinary" of 9th May, 1917, and numbered 807.

The names and numbers of the farms are as follows:—(1) Zaagkuildrift No. 518; (2) Wijnandskraal No. 154; (3) Boschplaats No. 507; (4) Sterkwater No. 213; (5) Stinkwater No. 585; (6) Rietgat No. 397; (7) Bezuidenhoutskraal No. 517; (8) Buffelsdrift No. 131.

The situation of these farms is shewn on the attached plan, copied from the standard map of the Transvaal.

Four families are residing on these farms as denoted by *o* in red ink.

All the members of Mr. Meyer's family who now own these farms are engaged in agricultural pursuits and in stock farming.

The farms are used by them for winter grazing and are occupied by a number of native families, long resident there, from whom labour supplies are drawn for farms on the highveld and elsewhere. The dispersion of these natives will mean a very serious inconvenience, and the retarding of the agricultural and other farming pursuits of those concerned.

The properties are well wooded, and serve to supply firewood and fencing poles for other properties. Two truck loads of these durable poles have, during the past few weeks, been forwarded to the highveld for fencing purposes.

The properties are about 25 to 30 miles from Pretoria, where a ready market is found for firewood, hay, cattle and other products.

The farms are admirably suited for the growing of cotton, maize and other crops. Cotton is rapidly coming more and more into general favour in the north of the Pretoria District, the Waterberg and elsewhere in the Transvaal, and high prices seem likely to prevail for some time after the conclusion of the war.

There are quite a number of white farms in the vicinity and land is being constantly taken up by both Dutch and English farmers.

There are several propositions afoot for the establishment of cattle ranching in the immediate neighbourhood, in which Messrs. Marais, Bourke, Struben and others are interested. It would, therefore, seem undesirable to establish a native location of the extent contemplated in the schedule, as the close proximity of large numbers of natives in such an area is likely to lead to unpleasant consequences.

The proprietors of the farms which are to be converted into cattle ranches are intending to erect houses for their managers and other white employees and to carry out their scheme on the most modern lines.

For these and other reasons it is hoped that the Commission will see its way to recommend the withdrawal of the aforementioned farms, with others therein included, from the scheduled area.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. P. MEYER,
(representing members of my family).

SWISS MISSION.

Shilouvane, Thabina, Transvaal,
26th December, 1917.

The Chairman of the Select Committee on Land Segregation,
Care of the Sub-Native Commissioner,
Haenertsburg.

Sir,

It came to my hearing that when the native chiefs of this district appeared before your Committee, the farm Sedan 157 was asked to form part of their own area, both by Chiefs Maake and Moruboya.

The Swiss Mission has established a mission station on Sedan some 26 years ago, and has now on lease (with still 40 years to elapse) a small part of the farm. All the people belonging to the Mission and all on the farm belong either to Chiefs Maake or Mohlava, but none to Moruboya. I am afraid the granting of Sedan to Moruboya would mean the dispersion of the mission station, and I would consider as a great favour that the farm be granted, if it is going to be in the native area at all, to Chief Maake in preference to Chief Moruboya.

Sedan has been the residence of both Chiefs Mohlava and Maake (who have always been on friendly terms) before they were given locations, and this is another reason why it should be granted to one of these two chiefs rather than to Moruboya.

May I suggest also that the boundary line between Chiefs Maake and Moruboya be re-established as it was before the locations were given out—it ran along a tributary of the Thabina, which takes its rise on "Marake" 2642, runs through "Mamatzeri" 2551 and empties itself in the Thabina on "Thabina Valley" 2553. Thus Moruboya's Location

would get an increase that would make up for Sedan being given to Maake; independently of any other increase your Committee may judge fit to be given to these chiefs.

If I am allowed, I would make myself some suggestions as to the attribution of the small part of the country I know. It is roughly a square whose corners would be Mohlaba's Location, the Haffenden Heights 2570, Sekororo's Location and Leydsdorp.

First of all I would approve that all the now given out locations be confirmed as native area, so as to avoid any ill-feeling among the natives. Further, I would suggest that all the farms on the slopes of the Drakensberg be parts of the white area, viz.: Sedan 157, Tours 162, Schelem 161, Paris 180, Balloon 186, and on the other slope, Hounslow 2656, Helvetia 2653, Kiel 2650, Dalton 2645, Cork 2643, and all farms included. There the climate is suitable for white occupation, and in average the farms are good; but, and it is to me the chief point, white occupation would be a protection to the country in preventing the destruction of forest, the creation of dongas, and the grass-burning in winter, which are the chief reasons for the drying up of the country and the loss of a considerable amount of arable ground every year.

Lastly, that all the flat low country from Berlin 331 to Kreuznach 321, then to Lorraine 183, then to Insburg 170 and Burgersdorp 169, and back to Berlin 331, together with all the farms included, be declared native area. Some of these farms are quite good, some barely suitable even for natives; as a whole they would form a large area where the natives could thrive. Fever is prevalent all over that part, but still both Bapedi and Shangaans live there, the former on the slopes of the kopjes, the latter on the flats.

As I have been only four years in the country, my opinion may be of little value, but the arguments on which it is based seem to me very sound; this is why I dare to put them before you.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) REV. R. QUENOD.

DOORNFONTEIN.

C/o Private Bag, Leshoane Mission,
viâ Pietersburg,
23rd November, 1917.

The Sub-Native Commissioner,
Pietersburg.

Honourable Sir,

We humbly beg you by this letter, that you may please carry our complaints and our requests before the Government, concerning to the "Native Land Act" we already agreed upon year 1913 together with the Chiefs of the Zoutpansberg District, we asked the Government that each chief had to remain in big place together with his own people. Should Government be willing to take care of us, may kindly give us pieces of land were we are found.

In this year we are still asking as we already have asked in the year 1913, as well as in reign of Queen Victoria. The English Government had pleased us by ordering the Republic Government that natives must be given Locations, that every chief and his people must be given a piece of land their birth place. Locations were granted to the people, at which we were thankful, they insufficient for the people to live in. The different Denominations were founded in these Locations, to worship God in them, we were pleased that even we natives were allowed to purchase portions of farms through our own names. A thing which was (prented) prevented in the time of Republic was that a native had no right to purchase seme through his own name. Therefore we commenced to purchase farms through the Government permission, and we paid due prices for doing same and we were given their Titles in which our names were entered. And we did not go far away from our Locations to buy these pieces of Farms, we bought only the neighbouring to our chiefs. Churches were erected in these farms and schools which are under the care of Government. We had much hope that a thing is confirmed by Government would not be changed. Now we are threatened by hearing that our lands are fallen in the European side. Though the Europeans pieces of farms in this land are few among we natives who are counted by thousands. If Locations and native farms should fall into the European's side, then the Union Government will have broken the commands of the late reigners who slept in peace upon whom we still make recommendations while dead. Continually, the Union should be careful of the Churches and Schools which are in the Locations and Native farms.

It, after the natives are sent or removed to the mentioned states towards the East, and their Churches and schools remaining used stalls of the white people Domestical herds, as for horses, cattle, pigs and sheep, whether to be used like bedrooms or dining or bar houses. These rooms are founded for worshipping God of every nation. Subsequently from the year 1913 to 1917 the Union Government have bound the black races with an old law of time of the (Repl) Republic for a native is again bracked to buy his own farm. This law is carried against the natives, of course any white man can buy a farm whenever he is in need, he will buy it without any hindrance, several natives have kept their money in their purses, they wish to buy their own farms, but the Union Government prevented them to buy. Even these farms of Europeans which are amongst our chiefs Locations. If the owners wish to sell these to some of our native races, the Union prevents them.

These are awful extremeties which meet the natives in Union. (Consequently we beg that the Government should not only keep care under Locations, but also remember to other natives living outside the Locations by cutting or gratifying to them pieces of lands approximately to the chiefs' Locations. Because if the Government only wants to crowd all the natives in Locations without allowing them to buy their own pieces as they want, of course that will mean the inhumanity of the Government, because native populations are already densed in the Locations: there are no meadows for their herds, there are no ploughing places for their lives. Starvation ranges awkwardly amongst the locations that the people can with greatest difficulty obtain money for the Government revenue income.

There is another awful branch of this bad law that: A native is not allowed to hire a white's farm by money, except by working for nothing "Boroko". We are really ignorant of the place where the Government wishes to be living for to the heaven we are unable to go in order to avoid the cruelty of these laws. The Government knows, then if he, a native, has no farm for himself to live, where will he live if he does not hire a white's farm with money for his life, because the Europeans have occupied the whole country, and natives are living through the help of white people and the white's also through natives. To hire a farm by money is far better than to work for nothing like a slave who is caught from the battle. Queen Victoria made peace to the natives from their slavery lives, that every one might live in the way he likes. The Union Government also decreased the law (Boroko) working for nothing, in the last years. By ordering the owners of the farms that natives have to work (Boroko) for three months in a year, and that for the remaining nine months work for their houses and also for the Government Tax Receipts. The law said, if any of the farmers overgoes this law, and make natives work "Boroko" for the time exceeding three months, he will be liable to be fined £50 sterling, or to be thrusted gaol for a period of six months. Still a lot of white farmers overgo that law, by making natives to work twice every week in a year. A native has to work with his wife and children that are over twelve or thirteen years of age without giving them food. If a man has six children, they are all set to work for one man along with their parents without food. We even do not know what amount of money did these white farmers buy their portions of farms. Schools which are in the white people's farms are even closed for good, because native children are on the work for "Boroko".

Although the Union Government knows very well that these schools were under his care, still these schools are shut without compasation to the Government. The Government does not even attempt to blame or punish the Transgressor of his laws, because heavy laws are set for black races only. Another law which inunderstoodable! For living to buy the Permit or Licence in our farms which we bought through the Government allowance or permission, be damaged as if we have stolen these farms. These show plainly how that although the Government would compel us by force without our own free-will, he will within few years of our living there come and remove us again toward the East, until we are finally thrown in the Seas, and there as for instant is where the Union Government would be quite contented for the natives live, and that place, even the wisest or cleverest people of the world cannot live in it. As about the East continues, the place where the Government wants to through or send the Natives by saying that it is a good living country prepared for natives. That in reality puts the natives in grieves, their hearts are gloomy, and are leading a lamantation live for the rumour that natives are going to be thrown towards the East. If the Union Governor is going to decide by force and remove all Zoutpansberg chiefs with their tribes to the said country, then Union Government will be like a butcher who drives his herds to a butchery house to be all slaughtered at a time. Because the country is liable for people to live in, but for wild beasts and people who were born in it. The country is as hot as fire. That how it possesses diseases of different kinds and deaths.

The said country must belong to the Government, he will go and kill elephants and other wild animals, when ever he goes for hunt. We beg that the Government should grant us another country which is very near or close to our birth place, instead of the East country which will belong to the Government for ever, because all countries are belonging to him. He is the Government of Locations farms.

These are our complaints and our requests from the Government.

(Writer: Sgd.) FILIPUS BOPAPE.

J. K. GAWITH.
General Merchant,
Sabie.

Sabie,
5th November, 1917.

E. STUBBS, Esq.,
Grand Hotel,
Pretoria.

Dear Mr. Stubbs,

In accordance with my promise, I spoke to the local correspondent of the "Pilgrims Rest and Sabie News" and asked him to write an account of your meeting here.

I now send the paper which gives, I think, a fair account of the proceedings.

Since your visit to Sabie, I have given some thought to the questions you mentioned, and to get over difficulties my own impression is that the lands for the settlement of natives should come right up to the edge of the Berg—that is, including all those farms below the Berg. Maps are published showing the Berg, and no doubt you could see one of those. I have one which I should have shown to you.

This would leave the natives quite close to Sabie and the mines in this locality undisturbed, and these farms are only occupied by natives, with one or two exceptions.

This would give satisfaction to everyone—the white population and natives alike, and there would be no occasion to move them to the area much lower down, which is a bad malaria district, and natives would not willingly go there from these localities.

Since your visit I have talked the matter over with Mr. H. T. Glynn, and I think we are in perfect agreement regarding this matter, as he is very much against disturbing natives in this district.

I hope to have an opportunity of meeting you in Pretoria, in order to discuss this question further.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) J. K. GAWITH.

P.S.—I am very keen that you should look up my article concerning Taxation in the "Star" of September 15th: you will see it close to the leading article. Sorry I have not a copy to send you. This scheme was brought before the Commercial Congress in Johannesburg the other day, and I am in a position to state that I have now thousands of supporters for it. In this district I think nearly everyone believes in it, and on the Rand and in Pretoria I know there are very many supporters.

I have letters from many prominent men complimenting me upon the article.

With kindest regards and hope you enjoyed your trip round this way.

J. K. G.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

Department of Native Affairs,
Barberton, 16th February, 1918.

The Secretary,
Eastern Transvaal Natives Land Commission,
Artillery Barracks, Pretoria.

I shall be glad if the necessary alterations can be made in my evidence given before you on the 17th January, a copy of which I have received.

(1) *Question by Chairman*: "As a native administrator of some experience, do you not think that, so far as administration is concerned, matters would be considerably facilitated if the areas were more compact instead of being spread all over the Transvaal?"

Mr. Wheelwright: "Yes, undoubtedly. What I meant by 'yes, undoubtedly,' in reply to the Chairman, was that areas in any particular district should, as far as possible, be confined to one particular part of the district if suitable ground offered. Of course from the natives' point of view it would suit them very well to have many parts of the district set aside for their exclusive occupation, but I will use the Chairman's own words when he gave evidence concerning the Zoutpansberg District before the Beaumont Commission, namely, 'I am opposed to any idea of honeycombing the district with native reserves.' It seems to me utterly impossible to attempt to have one huge area in any particular part of the Transvaal which would meet the requirements of all the natives, climatically and in other conditions."

Chairman: "Is the form of labour tenancy popular with the natives?"—*Mr. Wheelwright*: "No, they would prefer to receive wages for their work. Some farmers, however, are not in a position to pay the wages." You will notice the word "Farmers" is used in the copy of my evidence, and it should be "some farmers."

G. D. WHEELWRIGHT,
Sub-Native Commissioner, Barberton.

[U.G. 32—'18.]

The Hall,
Malelane Estate,
January 23rd, 1918.

The Secretary,
Eastern Transvaal Natives Land Committee,
4, Artillery Barracks, Pretoria.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of my evidence before your Committee, and herewith return same duly signed together with the necessary corrections given below as requested, which I trust you will find in order, and I shall be obliged if you will have these corrections printed in the fair copy of my evidence when published:—

Sheet 2, *page* 3.—The Chairman's question was, as I understood it: "Do you take in the whole of the Ward Sabi in Sections E and F?" My reply was "Yes."

It must be understood that I was working entirely with the map, and the boundaries were pointed out clearly both by myself and Mr. Hall to the Chairman and Committee; both myself and Mr. Hall were quite agreed upon the same boundaries of the land we proposed to substitute for Nos. 18 and 19, with the exception that in reply to a question by the Chairman (see sheet 4, page 13) I was willing to extend the proposed area up to the mining boundaries in Sections E and F. Nothing was further from my mind than to propose the whole of Sections E and F as a native area.

Sheet 5, *page* 13.—This should read we put down boreholes on the Crocodile River during the late Boer War, and in no instance did we find water.

Sheet 5, *page* 13.—The word "in" has been left out; it should read: "That is in Sections E and F."

Which means the area I finally proposed as a native area should be on the south of the Crocodile River, on the west the mining area boundary, on the north the Lydenburg District boundary, on the east the old wagon road down to where it joins the Logus River, and thence down the Logus River until it joins the Crocodile River.

Sheet 7, *page* 23.—My answer to Commandant Opperman was that if the Beaumont Commission Areas 18 and 19 stood certainly we preferred to have the gap and that the railways should not be in the native area.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) GEO. J. ELPHICK, Capt.

[*Translation.*]

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY CLUB.

Post Office Box 1092.

Pretoria,
22nd January, 1918.

The Hon. the Chairman and Members of the Natives Commission,
Pretoria.

Sir,

As I came to Pretoria to-day to give evidence *re* native property and have not yet had an opportunity to do so, I forward my views on behalf of a large portion of the public of this district to you, gentlemen, as it is of great importance to our district not to hand over too much land to natives.

I propose not to expropriate at present any native properties, also including all native locations, but to leave them in their possession, and if more land is needed for this district, to take the following: Hebron, Zwartbooi and Mapapa Locations and then in a straight line to Pienaars River Station, thence along Pankop, Bultfontein, Kalkfontein or Rooifontein up to Schildpadfontein Location, thence from the eastern beacon of Schildpadfontein up to the Beerputten, and then along the Elands River down to Toitkraal, thence westwards in a straight line up to the Waterberg boundary. In my opinion we then hand over one of our best districts for agricultural and stock-farming purposes. If no other solution can be found, the Government should be satisfied with the following conditions: that they must not lose sight of the fact that the Government should so compensate the land-owners so as to prevent them from being driven to poverty, and that through the sale of their property they will receive a reasonable compensation which represents the actual

value of their land which is to be given to the natives; and not to make the native richer and the European poorer.

I, as representative of a large portion of the population of this district, approve, provided the Government will take the above-mentioned points into due consideration, and that the above-named land will be used.

Trusting that your Commission will duly consider the above-named statements and proposals.

I have, etc.,

(Sgd.) J. G. OPPERMAN.
P.O. Garsfontein, Dist. Pretoria.

THE NATIVE BILL.

[*Translation.*]

GRIEVANCES OF THE PUBLIC.

At a meeting of delegates from various wards in the Pretoria District to discuss the new Natives Bill the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

1. Seeing that Pretoria is the capital it is very undesirable that a large Native Reserve, as proposed in the Bill, should be established in the vicinity. Pretoria is already surrounded by kafir locations (Blikkiesdorp, Frischgewaagd, Kilnerton) and townships, *e.g.*, Lady Selborne, Eerste Rust, with the increase of population in the Reserve—not 16 miles distant—the position of the white population will on account of the influx of coloured persons be worse than it is at present at Cape Town. It will inevitably lead to the kafirs desiring to be made equal to the whites so as to have the right to walk on the pavement and to ride next to the whites in the tram.

2. All rivers of the Witwatersrand plateau run in a northerly direction through the proposed reserve. In view of the increasing necessity fo irrigation in order to settle the continually increasing poor white population and to make the Union more and more independent economically, it is necessary that the farms on the river banks remain in the hands of whites. The fertile land along the Elands, Aapies, Pienaars and Crocodile Rivers offers the best opportunity for irrigation schemes. The Hartebeestpoort scheme is already being busily worked out. In Milner's time surveys were carried out on the Pienaar's River near Hamanskraal, which, however, came to nothing, as no funds were available. There are everywhere in the north of the Pretoria District places where the rivers flow through the mountain ranges that are most suitable for dams as if formed by nature for the purpose. With the increase of the population will the necessity for reservoirs be more and more felt.

3. The best turf land also falls within the proposed reserves. This land is the most suitable in the district for mealie planting. It must not be forgotten that mealies are one of the chief exports of the Union.

4. The reserves fall mostly in the so-called bushveld, which is rich in wood. Hundreds of loads per month go now monthly to the market from this area. During the first 50 years or longer the natives could make their living from this if the reserves are cut off as proposed. There they could lead a beautifully lazy life and contribute nothing to the progress of the land. Why should this area be closed against the poor whites, who now frequently make a living—if not a luxurious one—by transporting wood.

5. The bushveld is known of old as the best area for stock in the Transvaal, while the remainder of the Pretoria District which is to remain a white area contains mostly hard and sour grass, which is only enjoyable in the rainy reason. If the map is looked at it will be seen that the best stock areas of the district actually and without exception fall in the Native Reserve. The export of meat is strongly encouraged to become just as mealies—one of the staple products of the Union.

6. The greatest mineral wealth of the district also lies in the north. The world-renowned Premier Mine does not lie far from the reserve, and the formation of the ground permits the hope that still more such mines may be discovered. There are strong traces of tin, copper and good workable iron in these areas. On some farms the necessary machinery is already being actively erected.

7. In conclusion the natives are regarded exclusively as agricultural labourers. It is to be feared that should such a large area, more than 500,000 morgen, be opened up for them, they will all stream into it. It is known that they are eager to have their own land. They have in abundance the cattle with which they usually buy. With increased

immigration more and more whites will be available for farm labour, but this will be a slow process and not satisfactory for the first hundred years.

For these reasons the meeting resolves to urge the Government that all land now owned by natives be proclaimed as reserved. That ground meets to the full all the requirements of the natives. The Report of the Natives Land Commission itself shows that however much the natives complain that they have too little land, such land if systematically and properly worked will be sufficient for many years to carry the native population. It is the duty of every white man to provide first for the future of the white population. To take the part of the native will have the most fatal consequences and is a very wrong philanthropic principle which will never satisfy the kafir, while he will become richer and richer, and always lead to friction and unrest. The coloured element stretches over the whole world, and what a danger for the future of our land if the future race war between the two elements be brought hither. We agree fully with the English proverb "Charity begins at home.' We fear that if the reserves are proclaimed as proposed by the Commission, South Africa, if indeed not the Union then at least the Pretoria District, will not be a white man's land but a black man's land.

As regards Chapter III of the Bill, the meeting considers it desirable:—

1. That Section 16, in connection with a "Labour Tenant's Licence", should be so amended that the approval of the Minister be not necessary. A greater difference should be made between a "Squatter's Licence" and a "Labour Tenant's Licence" than is proposed in the Bill. If the Minister's approval of a Labour Tenant's Licence is required many a farmer will consequently suffer. The Minister is six months in the year at Cape Town, and the remaining six months he is so pressed that little time will be available for approving licences. The farmer is now accustomed to obtain labour tenants to get his work done, and the law should not from this point of view have an obstructive effect. Lastly, to prevent the improper or undesirable keeping of labour tenants, the meeting recommends that in every district a committee of three persons, of whom two must be persons actually farming, be appointed to recommend applications for labour tenants. In dealing with such an application the Committee must inspect the farms and the farming operations of each applicant. Such a recommendation and the confirmation of the Magistrate should be a sufficient guarantee as regards the law and the public that the system of labour tenants is not being misused.

2. The meeting is of opinion that the squatter's licence should be made so high that squatting will be impossible. The rate for a labour tenant's licence should, however, not be higher than to cover the actual necessary cost of issue. The Bill should definitely state that such a licence must be paid by the native labour tenant himself and not by the employer.

3. Section *sixteen* (7) reads: "A licence issued or renewed in respect of a squatter or labour tenant shall include any wife, the minor male children, and all unmarried female children of the squatter or labour tenant (as the case may be), provided in case of a child such child is actually dependent upon him." The law should clearly say what child is dependent on the parent and what not. In all countries throughout the world a child of civilized, intelligent parents—parents who can trace their European pedigree through ages—is regarded as of age and capable of thinking and acting for himself as soon as he is 21 years old. A kafir child, however—educational and historical research will show this—reaches majority at a much later age, while practically the child is regarded as of age and independent of the father even at 16 or 18 years. In this country the law regarding majority does not affect natives, and the Magistrate acts as he thinks fit. The result is that various ideas exist on this point, and they differ greatly from one another; even in adjoining districts there are conflicting opinions regarding the question of majority in the case of natives.

One Magistrate regards a kafir child as of age when the latter pays hut tax, another when the child is away from its parents and works as a servant. Cases where children from 14 to 16 years old run away from their parents to go to the towns and cannot be brought back, however much the parents desire it, are of daily occurrence.

The effect of this illogical position is that not only male children but also female children wander about the towns without work for their own pleasure and pass the nights in the same huts with houseboys in immorality and vice; the result is that scarcely a kafir girl under 20 years can be found who has not an illegitimate child.

What will the state of the country be when these illegitimate children destined to be criminals grow up and multiply? In most cases these young victims are 16 to 17 years old, and have become a prey to the ignorance and lack of protection and care of their parents.

Native chiefs and their councils have long since seen the danger of this fatal condition and try to take measures against it, but they are powerless, as they obtain no support from the Courts. Thus the kafir child must be protected against himself and the world's seduction. This is necessary not alone for the future of the black child but much more so for the security of the white population.

The meeting therefore recommends that in the Bill it be clearly laid down that a black child up to his 21st year, or according to any provisions applying to a white child, is dependent on his parents.

P.O. Box 18, Bethal,
29th January, 1918.

The Secretary,
Natives Segregation Commission,
Room No. 4, Artillery Barracks,
Pretoria.

Sir,

As promised, when we were at Bethal to give evidence before your Commission, we have the honour to submit a list of farms which, in our opinion, should be included in the Native Reserves of the Middelburg, Waterberg and Pretoria Districts.

When we gave evidence we were informed that the Commission had no map at its disposal at Bethal, and we were requested to draw up a list and send same to you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) P. J. ERASMUS,
C. J. UYS,
R. E. ERASMUS.

List of farms to be included in the Native Reserve: —

Middelburg District.—Spitskop No. 453, Eenzaam No. 452, Roodepoort No. 484, Goedgedacht No. 419, Tweefontein No. 418, Morgenzon No. 422, thence according to the Beaumont boundary to the Olifants River, thence including the following farms in the *Waterberg District.*—Globe No. 159, Vaaruttung No. 1845, Mutievades No. 1844, Arcadia No. 1842, Ongezien No. 2037, Witfontein No. 1794, Palmietfontein No. 1778, Rooibok No. 1775, Rietfontein No. 1831, Kwaggafontein No. 1947.

Pretoria District.—Tambootielaagte No. 364, Klipsyvering No. 353, Matjiesgoedkuil No. 372, Frieskraal No. 18, Weltevrede No. 512, Renosterkop No. 463, Geweerfontein No. 504, Bloedfontein No. 515, Debeersput No. 388, Trayr No. 603, Rooikoppen No. 477, Drogegrond No. 598, Witlaagte No. 445, Bultfontein No. 472, Tambootiepan (unnumbered), Zandfontein No. 25, Pankoppen No. 505, and Turflaagte No. 386.

P. J. E.
C. J. U.
R. E. E.

SCHEDULE OF FARMS INCLUDED IN ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED NATIVE AND OPEN AREAS.

Middelburg District (Open Area).

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent. Mor. Sq.Rds.	Purchase Price.
349	Koppiealleen ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2796 205	£50,000 W.O.P.
380	Driekopjes ..	A. E. Zerkia and Others ..	2910 149	Inheritance.
376	Goedehoop ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	3010 149	£64,076 W.O.P.
381	Buffelsfontein ..	F. P. J. Steenkamp and Others	3334 34	Portions at different values.
382	Goedehoop ..	S. E. Dunn	3203 345	£81.
377	Klipspruit ..	F. C. Meissner	3092 193	£1,236 18s. 6d.
395	Goedvertrouwen	R. E. Erasmus	2333 29	£310.
397	Montevideo ..	M. A. C. Joubert and Others	2978 473	Taken over.
379	Goedgedacht ..	G. H. Jacobsz and Others ..	3065 543	Bequeathed and taken over.
383	Welgelegen ..	J. J. Scheepers	2824 25	Bequest.
458	Doornspruit ..	S. S. Smith	3754 223	£3,754.
440	Vooruitzicht ..	Standard Bank of Africa, Ltd.	3320 530	£400.
109	Welkom	C. J. A. Muller and W. J. A. Wessels.	2350 513	£1,000 for the farms taken over.
439	Bockenhoutlaagte	W. J. A. Wessels	1552 408	Taken over. Last P.P. £300.
438	Platklip	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co. and Others.	2749 415	£50,000 W.O.P Dorated.
434	Ontevreden ..	African and European Investment Co.	2714 272	£645,425 W.O.P.
428	Uitkyk	Pokwani Tribe under Joseph Maseroem, L. D. W. J. Ackermann and Others.	2778 276	£630 W.O.P.
435	Rietfontein (Location).	Government	4075 583	£500.
536	Nebo	Government	2828 429	
427	Leeuwkraal ..	C. H. Schutte and Others ..	3446 300	Portions at different values.
451	Reitfontein ..	J. H. Breytenbach and Others	3917 260	Portions at different values.
448	Roodepoort ..	S. P. Schutte and Others ..	2026 488	Portions at different values.
462	Eenzaam ..	J. A. Muller and Others ..	3138 509	Bequest.
405	Nooitgezien ..	A. J. Smit	1613 18	£300.
161	Klipspruit ..	Sir G. Farrar	1829 128	£1,600 11s. 3d.
408	Ongezien ..	H. P. de Jager and Others ..	1187 298	Portions at different values.
410	Boshoek	P. P. van der Berg ..	1137 159	£270.
404	Roodekopje ..	D. Kemp and B. Reinhold ..	2569 53	Portions at different values.
445	Klipkloof ..	O. C. Brits and Others ..	3354 178	Portions at different values.
413	Rietvlei	J. L. W. de Jager and Others	2968 342	£600 and partly inherited.
51	Brakfontein ..	I. M. and J. J. C. van Niekerk	1722 400	£300.
186	Welgelegen ..	Henderson Consolidated Corporation, Ltd.	2559 480	£75,000 W.O.P.

MIDDELBURG DISTRICT (OPEN AREA)—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
441	Goedertrouw ..	D. W. J. Joubert and Others	3469 363	Portions at different values.
454	Paardenzoek ..	G. W. J. Joubert and Others	3366 54	Portions at different values.
443	Vaalbank ..	J. S. Danel	1719 89	£850.
151	Enkeldedoorn ..	J. J. Brits and Others ..	3473 433	Partly bequeathed, partly purchased.
476	Vleeschboom ..	O. T. van Niekerk	3850 431	£1,668 10s.
464	Vierfontein ..	W. F. J. Schroder	1169 217	£1,169.
254	Groenfontein ..	Erasmus Family	1667 573	Donation.
444	Buffelskloof ..	United African Lands, Ltd.	1840 84	
447	Hartbeestfontein	Central S.A. Lands and Mines	3051 196	£352.
494	Klipspruit ..	United African Lands, Ltd.	1758 337	£3,000.
457	Eensgevonden ..	C. J. Uys and Others ..	2515 530	Portions at different values.
495	Zuikerbosch ..	J. H. Breytenbach	2229 303	£250.
466	Lukaw	J. J. Roos and Others ..	2576 400	Portions at different values.
493	Frischgewaagd ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co. ..	1665 446	£50,000 W.O.P.
469	Gemsbokspoort ..	W. A. Swanepoel and Others	2359 423	Portions at different values.
289	Klipspruit ..	J. F. van der Merwe and Others.	2006 137	Portions at different values (Partition).
463	Spitskop	C. J. Viljoen and Others ..	4733 284	Portions at different values (Partition).
468	Syferfontein ..	J. C. Bekker and Wife ..	2945 167	Bequest.
500	Tafelkop ..	W. J. Grobler	2391 548	£1,791.
488	Boekenhoutkloof	C. S. Grobler	2108 249	£600.
497	Sterkfontein ..	C. J. Engelbrecht	1474 178	£1,500.
537	Vlakfontein ..	L. J. and S. J. Grobler ..	2914 195	£2,914.
465	Paardenplaats ..	J. S. Grosskopf and Others ..	3572 18	Inheritance.
471	Dwars Indeweg	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	1763 363	£50,960 W.O.P.
487	Mooiplaats ..	Public Debt Commissioners	2841 73	Made over Last P.P. £150.
499	Weleglegen ..	Eastern Province Guardian Loan and Investment Co. of Grahamstown.	2024 30	£607 2s. 6d.
198	Aangevezen ..	New Transvaal Gold Farms, Ltd.	2931 134	£14,000.
491	Vaalkopfontein ..	E. White	2949 545	Inheritance.
486	Probeeren ..	African Farms, Ltd. ..	3060 168	£10,000 W.O.P.
492	Kwaggavoetpad	A. W. Baker	2393 589	£600.
484	Waterval ..	J. P. Meyer and J. Ensen ..	3059 288	£960.
279	Goedenhoop ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	2446 21	£900.
485	Hartbeestlaagte	J. Botha and Others ..	3010 517	Portions at different values.
481	Haluek	J. W. Lotz	2624 445	£555.
489	Barkfontein ..	Lydenburg Estates Ltd. ..	3030 (about).	£3,000 W.O.P.
490	Paardenfontein ..	G. N. Jacse van Rensburg ..	2678 453	£2,277.
477	Vlaklaagte ..	S. A. Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	1944 488	£1,228 and 1,571 £1 shares.
473	Keerom	S.A. Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	3752 354	£2,414 and 3,090 £1 shares.
476	Zaalplaats ..	New Transvaal Gold Farms, Ltd.	3064 500	£1,915 10s. 5d.
474	Elandslaagte ..	S. W. van Heerden and Others	2580 589	Bequest

Piet Retief District, Area 20 (Additional).

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent. Mor. Sq.Rds.	Purchase Price.
26	Bongaspoort ..	J. W. Spies and G. W. van Niekerk.	3955 257	Partition.
33	Klipwal	The New Scotland Land Co., Ltd.	4331 261	£20,851 W.O.P.
86	Belgrade ..	H. T. Norton and F. C. Norton	2989 453	Bequest.
81	Tobolsk	H. T. Norton and F. C. Norton	3589 —	Bequest.
25	Orangedal ..	J. W. Steenkamp and W. Steenkamp.	3712 236	£1,670 12s. 6d.
23	Altona	The New Scotland Land Co., Ltd.	3223 300	£20,851 W.O.P.

Pietersburg District (Open Area).

960	Schaffhausen ..	Government	1366 518	
959	Cromford ..	Government	813 379	
958	Sour Apple Tree	Government	1442 338	
957	Wingfield ..	Government	910 212	
956	Postchaaslag ..	Battenhaussen Family ..	2535 509	Partition.
955	Prospect	Battenhaussen Family ..	2515 161	Partition.
954	Luss	Government	883 347	
944	Juno	Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	2490 64	£909 1s. 9d. 3/4 & 3/11 W.O.P.
953	Fairlie	Government	1030 431	
952	Johnstonshoek ..	Government	948 94	
945	Olympus ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	2470 64	£50,000 W.O.P.
951	Graffreinet ..	Battenhaussen	3169 339	Partition.
948	Lonsdale	H. J. Lubbe	1132 487	£50 last P.P.
949	Lonsdale	H. J. Lubbe	1212 184	£900 last P.P.
950	Lonsdale	H. J. Lubbe	1004 572	£725.
946	Vulcanus ..	Northern Transvaal Land Co., Ltd.	2616 238	£909 1s. 9d., 3/4 & 3/11 W.O.P.
947	Luttingsdale ..	Battenhaussen Family ..	2966 94	£750.
1360	Lynplaats ..	C. J. Nysschen, Jnr. ..	853 538	£225.
1639	Lamoelaslaagte ..	Transvaal Government ..	1373 236	£200.
1344	Kalkpan	Government	1018 536	
1362	Nooitgedacht ..	C. J. Lubbe	1081 129	£450.
943	Chloe	L. J. Jacobsz	2712 590	£150.
1542	Vlakfontein ..	Sellschop Family	585 45	Inheritance.
1538	Gloeksdam ..	Sellschop	609 19	Inheritance.
2016	Kordon	H. Lipshitz	766 69	£300.
2015	Goed Hoop ..	M. M. van Gas .. } J. de V. Roos .. }	1278 279	£50. £150.
942	Bacchus	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2866 474	£50,000 W.O.P.
941	Ceres	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2828 36	£50,000 W.O.P.
1863	Eerstegeluk ..	T. Mahlaela	1318 5	£1,350.
2012	Cornelia	Government	574 531	
940	Rampietjesfontein	E. Caldecott	2674 418	£650.
1864	Damplaats ..	H. J. J. Kruger, Jnr. ..	875 128	
2386	Zandfontein ..	Bakoni Tribe known as Batlala Tribe and Sellschop Family.	270 110	Inheritance.
1540	Uithoek	Sellschop Family	303 348	Inheritance.
1539	Kopje Enkel ..	J. M. Joubert	538 35	£300.
1641	Abrahamsfontein	A. van der Burg	431 258	£320 Last p.p.
2011	Zomersfontein ..	Government	unsurveyed	
1865	Helena	A. C. Vermaak	711 180	£385.
1537	Bultfontein ..	S. Kaufman	298 458	£300.
916	Waschbank ..	P. W. de Wet	751 580	£800 W.O.P.

PIETERSBURG DISTRICT (OPEN AREA)—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
853	Uitzicht	Government	578 89	
852	Utrecht	Union Government	218 130	£376 W.O.P.
1538	Strydfontein ..	W. W. de Wet	136 531	£800 W.O.P.
1536	Vlaklaagte ..	Government	350 319	
812	Kalkspruit ..	T. J. Mynhardt	2696 104	£1,000 W.O.P.
1541	Eensgevonden ..	J. J. Moolman	313 124	Deed of Grant.
928	Commissiedrift ..	S. Kaufman	304 265	£304 9s. 0d.
1531	Christina ..	Union Government	315 347	£376 W.O.P.
1530	Anna	Sellschop Family	216 210	Inheritance.
931	Langverwacht ..	P. C. Potgieter	157 560	
814	Bergzicht ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2942 423	£3,918 W.O.P.
1563	Burletta	Sellschop	333 330	Inheritance.
846	Billingsgate ..	W. J. Beard	579 91	£500.
817	Venus	G. S. J. Scheepers	2310 22	£800.
793	Waterplaats ..	Transvaal Government ..	856 306	£300.
808	Waterplaats ..	S. J. Wilks	330 186	£550 W.O.P.
1542	Waterplaats ..	S. J. Wilks	363 590	£550 W.O.P.
815	Uitvlugt	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2355 446	£50,000 W.O.P.
813	Vaalkop	Transvaal United Trust and Finance Co.	2216 333	£50,358 1s. 0d.
816	Doornspruit ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2351 488	£50,000 W.O.P.
818	Jupiter	A. W. Baker	4097 169	£200.
819	Mars	T. J. Mynhardt	1969 406	£1,000 W.O.P.
1549	Diana	J. G. Roos	714 235	£565.
809	Diana	Keyi Shapu (Paul Shapo, native).	697 468	£700.
1550	Diana	J. Kalmeyer	305 412	£725 W.O.P.
1551	Diana	J. Kalmeyer	1211 355	£725 W.O.P.
794	Waterplaats ..	S. J. Wilks	1096 245	£550 W.O.P.
855	Waterplaats ..	S. J. Wilks	966 122	£550 W.O.P.
1652	Doornfontein ..	Transvaal United Trust and Finance Co., Ltd.	3339 320	£50,358 1s. 0d. W.O.P.
2404	Machichaan's Location	Government	10704 410	
2011	Zomersfontein ..	Government	[illegible]	
884	Groot Geluk ..	J. J. A. Erasmus and G. F. Snyman.	1357 254	£450 W.O.P.
798	Lodewyksvlei ..	P. J. Degenaar	1008 520	£80 last P.P.
830	Wachtkraal ..	H. J. Lubbe	1247 210	£300 last P.P.
1674	Klipfontein ..	H. J. Lubbe	862 287	£25.
700	Roodeput ..	Government	681 497	
1891	Wachtenbeetjesbosch.	H. Harnert	536 376	Inheritance.
1669	Wachtenbeetjesbosch.	H. Harnert	1100	

ZOUTPANSBURG DISTRICT.

123	Diepkloof ..	Government	1235 560	
431	Beaconsfield ..	Government	1617 466	
132	M'Psana	J. D. H. Grobler	603 280	Deed of Grant.
133	Cordon	J. M. Wilks (minor) ..	865 361	£475.
429	Dwarspruit ..	Wolf and Simpson and Others	866 559	£80 in 1911.
428	Cadiz	Mentz, Andrew, Wolf and Simpson	572 340	£140 in 1910 paid by the former.

ZOUTPANSBURG.—*Continued.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
427	Joubertstroom ..	J. K. C. Bergemaan ..	662 174	£400.
430	Stony Edge ..	Government	839 351	
424	Greystone ..	Government	852 568	
425	Bloemfontein ..	M. H. C. Kohly (born Reiche, M.O.C.P.)	1067 29	£1,100.
426	Bergplaats ..	J. A. Coetzee	670 141	Deed of Grant.
65	Barotta	M. Cooksley	2803 129	Bequest. Last p.p. £220.
111	Goedverwachtig..	Berliner Miss, Gesellschaft..	2997 223	£150.
59	Renbonder ..	J. E. van Soelen (born Krynauw) Widow V. A. L. Devinish	3177 237	Taken over. last p.p. £450.
112	Madrid	M. Cooksley (Widow) ..	2197 548	Bequest. Last p.p. £305.
120	Welgevonden ..	M. Cooksley	2098 164	Bequest. Last p.p. £50.
74	Laastgevonden ..	Conrad Zeigler	3343 46	Bequest. Last p.p. £125.
58	Weltevreden ..	Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	2305 372	£750.
312	Muz'afera ..	Government	1195 404	
951	Alverton ..	J. M. O. Ash (widow) ..	634 369	Taken over.
950	Langeverwacht ..	J. J. C. Fourie	654 102	Deed of Grant.
109	Klipfontein ..	P. Berthoud in trust for "Mission Romande"	2162 510	£300.
311	Wolferoode ..	A. Thomas	2725 493	£1,500.
216	Welgevonden ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co. and Others	3559 164	About £3,500.
110	Driefontein ..	Angelbeck and Borchers ..	1996 510	£1,997.
75	Beaufort ..	M. Cooksley	3164 461	Bequest. Last p.p. £400.
119	Verzameling van water	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	3550 307	£50,000 W.O.P.
122	Schuinshoogte ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	3258 375	£50,000 W.O.P.
949	Waterboom ..	J. T. da Fonsiea	191 533	Deed of Grant.
118	Waterval ..	E. Creux in trust for "Mission Romande"	2017 582	£300.
364	Styldrift	J. B. Carter	2311 40	Donation.
510	Kruisfontein ..	G. J. Heys	2002 415	£360 in 1890.
440	Vaalkop	D. O. van Velden	1925 478	£1,443 10s. 0d.
108	Naboomkop ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	1616 515	£50,000 W.O.P.
802	Ongedacht ..	Mission Romande	1382 1888	£4,000 W.O.P.
83	Vygeboomdrift ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	2386 375	£30,000 W.O.P.
865	Masehaffe ..	Mission Romande	2256 353	£4,000 W.O.P.
974	Rossbach ..	Mission Romande	1066 437	£4,000 W.O.P.
952	R'vierplaats ..	Mission Romande	818 524	£4,000 W.O.P.
175	Zeekoegat ..	J. Liengine	1088 474	£707 14s. 0d.
176	Middlefontein ..	A. C. Schlaefli	1128 197	Donated.
16	Driefontein ..	H. E. Benjamin	917 220	£155.
17	Grootfonte'n ..	E. C. Fourie van Reenen (Spin)	1239 287	Bequest.
207	Thorndale ..	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1184 257	£10,000 W.O.P.
208	Bushy Park ..	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1372 242	£10,000 W.O.P.
206	Riversdale ..	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1471 544	£10,000 W.O.P.
115	Bellvue	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1474 101	£10,000 W.O.P.

ZOUTPANSBURG.—*Continued.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
33	Malmesbury ..	African and European Investment Co., Ltd.	1803 37	£24,316 15s. 4d.
78	Piesangfontein ..	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1699 498	£10,000 W.O.P.
174	De Hoop ..	Henderson Consolidated Corporation Ltd.	1792 329	£75,000 W.O P.
767	Hoogemoed ..	Government	1575 18	
43	Ossenhoek ..	Central South African Lands and Mines Ltd.	2150 563	£7,000.
766	Onverwacht ..	Gunther, v. d. Goltz, Wessmann and Others	1490 520	Bequest.
765	Marseille ..	Government	1074 351	
77	Nieuw England	Henderson Consolidated Corporation Ltd.	1954 27	£75,000 W.O.P.
803	Middleplaats ..	G. Leith	1460 395	£150.
229	Wagendrift ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	1056 148	£50,000 W.O.P.
29	Nieuwe Veld ..	E. C. Fourie van Reenen ..	1388 456	Partition.
228	Magor	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co. Ltd.	1285 241	£50,000 W.O.P.
21	Caledon	Central South African Lands and Mines Ltd.	1215 496	£7,000.
875	Nieuwe Vlagte ..	Government	1117 249	
11	Crystalfontein ..	E. Davidson	1480 587	£400.

PIETERSBURG DISTRICT (WARD GROOT SPELONKEN).

1931	Mamareema's Location (Northern half of Donkerhoek).	Government	1056 343	Native Area.
1930	Donkerhoek (Southern half).	J. F. L. J. van Rensburg ..	1056 343	£250.
2614	Thovaleskraal ..	Government	1581 505	Exchange.
2617	Molimo's Location	Government	944 484	£560 9s.
2511	Kleinfontein ..	E. G. Ireland	1209 15	£1,500.
2543	Haemtskloof ..	S. J. Wilks	1116 549	£279.
2578	Hoeningfontein ..	M. Cooksley	1583 231	£100.
93	Avondale ..	E. F. Bourke	1896 231	£100 in 1903.
172	Groenwater ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	1064 558	£50,000 W.O.P.
82	Nooitgedacht ..	A. Eberhardt	1582 24	£600.
217	Weltevreden ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	1425 301	£50,000 W.O.P
866	Mamahela's Location (Geraldine).	Government	1092 67	£800.
223	Goedehoop ..	E. Rooth and H. L. Malherbe	1204 375	£521 13s. 4d. W.O P.
45	Paardekraal ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	1286 201	£50,000 W.O.P.
81	Weltevreden ..	A. Eberhardt	1361 —	£500.
867	Marinier's Drift ..	Government	1225 160	£1,000.
86	Aangenaamuitzicte	C. Maggs	1146 255	£360.
48	Bontfontein ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	1199 280	£50,000 W.O.P.
22	Mostershoek ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1955 275	£7,000 W.O.P.
23	Vaalwater ..	F.C. Meme	1591 523	£500 W.O.P.
31	Goedverwacht ..	H. L. Malherbe	1169 447	£350 W.O.P.

PIETERSBURG DISTRICT (WARD GROOT SPELONKEN)—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
57	Voorspoed ..	Henderson Consolidated Corporation, Ltd.	1162 244	£75,000 W.O.P.
56	Nooitgedacht ..	N. A. L. Noyce (m.o.c.p.) ..	1583 344	£15 in 1884.
50	Grootfontein ..	T. Kleinenberg	1229 243	£311 1s. 7d.
49	Crysta'water ..	F. C. Menne	1265 402	£500 W.O.P.
19	Zeekoewater ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	2049 592	£7,000 W.O.P.
365	Rotterdam ..	R. Davis (bn. Solomon) ..	3246 189	Half share £260, other half exchanged.
366	Amsterdam ..	T. N. H. de Villiers ..	3089 417	Exchanged for half of above farm.
368	Blinkwater ..	H. R. and A. H. Abercrombie	2409 178	£485.
14	Sterkwater ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1800 5	£7,000 W.O.P.
13	Mooimeisesfontein	S. C. Macdonald	1508 104	£152 15s. 4d.
12	Plaiserfontein ..	Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	1258 100	£909 1s. 9d. 3/4 & 3/11.
9	Blinkwater ..	Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	1113 491	£909 1s. 9d., 3/4 3/11.
10	Sterkrivier ..	J. W. Mogg	999 534	£60.
40	Kwaggafontein ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1558 450	£7,000 W.O.P.
36	Grootfontein ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1542 349	£7,000 W.O.P
42	Helderwater ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1748 516	£7,000 W.O.P.
37	Zonnebloem ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1857 321	£7,000 W.O.P.
155	Oliphantshoek ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	1787 124	£50,000 W.O.P.
39	Morgenzon	W. J. Compton	1640 327	£300.
27	Hartebestefontein	M. J. van Reenen (bn. Jacobs)	1327 89	£1,000 W.O.P.
35	Schaaplaagte ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1454 489	£7,000 W.O.P.
38	Hartebestefontein	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1712 444	£7,000 W.O.P.
20	Middlewater ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1531 519	£7,000 W.O.P.
28	Zeekoefontein ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1605 51	£7,000 W.O.P.
154	Bandolierfontein	S.A. South	1376 73	Deed of Grant.
200	Zeermooi.. ..	Lewis and Marks, Ltd. ..	1556 511	£67,649 8s. 3d. W.O.P.
80	Schoonuitzicht ..	A. M. W. G. Marais ..	1563 461	£391.
116	Hopeful	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1612 315	£10,000 W.O.P.
117	Noblehof ..	Oceana Development Co., Ltd.	1479 472	£10,000 W.O.P.
81	Nieuwland ..	J. C. G. Ross	1730 308	£580.
46	Kodoesfontein ..	M J. van Reenen (bn. Jacobs)	1462 293	£1,000 W.O.P.
153	Zoetfontein ..	S.A. South	1876 503	£5 in 1884.
47	Roerfontein ..	Transvaal Consolidated Lands and Exploration Co.	1677 474	£50,000 W.O.P.
15	Klaarstroom ..	Central S.A. Lands and Mines, Ltd.	1581 200	£7,000 W.O.P.
269	Deiselboom ..	Government	1400 — (about).	
770	Vlaakfontein ..	Government	1300 — (about).	
771	Viljoensvlei ..	Government	1500 — (about).	

PIETERSBURG DISTRICT (WARD GROOT SPELONKEN)—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent. Mor. Sq.Rds.	Purchase Price.
772	Proesfontein ..	Government	900 — (about).	
2178	Manarein (eastern portion, extent 100 morgen).	G. Taylor	100 —	Crown Grant
331	Berlyn	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	2830 544	£13,000 W.O.P.
324	Kenlen	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd	4464 389	£13,000 W.O.P.
315	Coblentz	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	3819 543	£13,000 W.O.P.
169	Bergersdorp ..	Selati Gold Mining Co., Ltd ..	2235 68	£750.
157	Sedan	Oceana Consolidated Co., Ltd.	3984 74	£50,000 W.O.P.
162	Tours	Oceana Consolidated Co., Ltd.	4899 232	£50,000 W.O.P.
323	Sedaa	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd	3055 110	£13,000 W.O.P.
317	Bonn	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd	2528 116	£13,000 W.O.P.
329	Dusseldorp ..	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	3414 160	£13,000 W.O.P.
160	Bordeaux ..	Oceana Consolidated Co., Ltd.	2824 30	£50,000 W.O.P.
170	Iulesburg ..	Oceana Consolidated Co., Ltd.	2910 373	£50,000 W.O.P.
161	Schelem	Oceana Consolidated Co., Ltd.	3973 508	£50,000 W.O.P.
312	Potsdam ..	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	3938 401	£13,000 W.O.P.
311	Munchen ..	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	2682 310	£13,000 W.O.P.
313	Luxemburg ..	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	3543 207	£13,000 W.O.P.
158	Pretoria	Northern Transvaal Lands Co.,	3207 547	£909 1s. 9d. 3/4.
156	Calais	W. J. Compton	2889 — (about).	£300.
180	Paris	Unificatie Syndicate, Ltd. ..	3373 310	£645.
314	Aken	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	2766 543	£13,000 W.O.P.
325	Lunnenburg ..	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	3440 323	£13,000 W.O.P.
327	Minden	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	3495 576	£13,000 W.O.P.
182	Nationaal ..	Transvaal Exploration & Development Co., Ltd.	2921 433	£5,400.
181	Toul	H. and F. P. Mockford ..	2872 106	£1,050.
186	Balloon	Sarah E. Dunn	3400 — (about).	£200.
334	Carlsruhe ..	Sarah E. Dunn	4041 121	£200 W.O.P.
187	Alsace	Transvaal Estates and Development Co., Ltd.	3146 100	£3,000 W.O.P.
183	Lorraine	Government	unsurveyed	
165	Metz	Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	4684 175	£909 1s. 9d., 3/4 & 3/11 W.O.P.
159	Enable	A. Pitt (born Heath)	3693 308	Donation.
178	Turkey	Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	5400 196	£909 1s. 9d., 3/4 & 3/11 W.O.P.
164	Worcester ..	Northern Transvaal Lands Co., Ltd.	5021 438	£909 1s. 9d., 3/4 & 3/11 W.O.P.
166	Sadowa	Transvaal Consolidated Land & Exploration Co., Ltd.	5007 187	£50,000 W.O.P.
333	Saarburg ..	Harmony Proprietary Co., Ltd.	4203 124	£13,000 W.O.P.
177	The Willows ..	Northern Transvaal Land Co.	3008 237	£909 1s. 9d., 3/4 & 3/11 W.O.P.
259 258 257 2676	Matabatas Loc. & Lots adjoining Nos. 252, 260, 261 and 264.	..	3000 —	
503	Wonderkop ..	Government	873 519	
463	Toornkop ..	Government	787 476	
489	Middelrand ..	S. Gillingham and Others ..	194 395	£10.
1581	Holkloof	J. W. C. Johnson	678 241	About £72.
487	Deelkraal ..	S. Gillingham	302 383	£10.
585	Rietfontein ..	South African General Investment & Trust Co., Ltd.	606 489	
602	Langplaats ..	D. P. W. Jordaan	120 26	

PIETERSBURG DISTRICT (WARD GROOT SPELONKEN)—*Cont*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent. Mor. Sq.Rds	Purchase Price.
485	Nooitgedacht ..	J. A. Swartz	473 232	£500.
483	Bavianskloof ..	R. Currie	321 461	£5.
482	Onverwacht ..	Reverted to Government ..	311 299	
153	Driehout ..	A. Horvitch	291 198	£75.
481	Gramdoel ..	Government	527 276	
558	Tigerkloof ..	P. G. Louw	133 221	£60.
557	Steenrots ..	Government	498 129	
586	Kransrand ..	G. Gadda	460 164	£48 5s. 0d.
518	Zwartbank ..	New Transvaal Gold Farms, Ltd.	670 54	Last P.P. £4,510 in £1 shares.
517	Mooiplaats ..	G. F. Hughes	675 147	Last P.P. £844.
554	Langkrantz ..	Schneiders & Son	342 192	
544	Ts Jeuniespoort Oost.	A. W. J. Jansen & T. Kleinenberg.	677 68	
599	Ts Jeuniespoort West	Government of the Union of South Africa.	662 150	
598	Blaauwkrantz ..	Government of the Transvaal	402 81	£300.
479	Uitkijk	A. Goldberg	226 473	£7 10s.
506	Doornhoek ..	T. G. Trevor	484 155	£50 in 1892.
507	Doornkloof ..	T. G. Trevor	535 423	£50 in 1892.
493	Gladdepunt ..	H. H. Mundt	306 425	£20 W.O.P.
494	Schuinsrand ..	H. H. Mundt	660 — (about).	£20 W.O.P.
1627	Platnek	S. J. Wilks	1125 499	£350 W.O.P.
1626	Rooiboschbaek ..	S. J. Wilks	1099 248	£350 W.O.P.
735	Groethoek ..	Transvaal Estates Development Co., Ltd.	3586 290	£3,000 W.O.P.
736	Schaafplaats ..	African Reality Trust and Government.	2410 405	£25,000 W.O.P. Donated.
504	Rooiboklaagte ..	T. G. Trevor	521 236	£50 in 1892.
505	Zwartrand ..	Government	484 270	
529	Diepkloof ..	E. A. Kohly	404 114	£100.
658	Kliprots	Government	344 220	
515	Schoonklip ..	F. C Slabber	188 514	£50.
565	Staanplaats ..	A. N. Glosotti	306 271	£200.
516	Waterkloof ..	New Transvaal Gold Farms, Ltd.	381 106	£3,480 in £1 shares
574	Rivierplaats ..	M. P. Kruitwig and Kruitwig Family.	459 225	Inheritance.
561	Vlugtplaats ..	M. E. Grobler	540 331	£571 7s. 6d., with other portions taken over.
559	Stylhoogte ..	Johannesburg Consolidated Investment Co., Ltd.	318 319	£50.
575½	Langkloof ..	Government	274 61	
637	Driekop	Government	241 404	
535	Stylkop	Government	194 274	
540	Langboken ..	Government	258 270	
608	Kodoeskloof ..	Government	242 153	
484	Schurwekrans ..	Government	252 86	
486	Rooikrans ..	J. A. Swartz	417 102	£500 W.O.P.
547	Slaafkop	Government	257 61	
534	Topfontein ..	Government	370 144	
677	Donkerhoek ..	J. F. Kirsten	434 534	£30 last P.P.
313	Baviaankop ..	Government	565 92	
514	Uitloop	A. J. Kruger	291 212	£100.
1878	Morgenzon ..	Union Government and Others	615 440	£91, £350 W.O.P
568	Storm	Government	636 500	
1962	Zwartkop ..	P. J. Haupt	759 329	Deed of Grant.
1963	Kiel	Government	809 295	
1973	Uitvlugt	Government	1028 62	
1964	Vogelstruisnek ..	Government	719 312	
570	Rooiboschplaats	Government	1078 66	

PIETERSBURG DISTRIKT (WARD GROOT SPELONKEN)—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
566	Voorspoed ..	Half share M. Cornelius, half share H. A. J. Prinsloo.	1118 350	£60 for half share.
1620	Rustplaats ..	C. A. J. Jansen (Snr.) ..	604 512	£600.
1659	Boomplaats ..	T. Kleinenberg	1202 386	£360 12s.
573	Warneberg ..	A. Z. A. Briel, Jnr. ..	912 453	Last P.P. £155.
1654	Mphatlele Kraal	National Bank of S.A. ..	793 213	£125,000 W.O.P.
576	Mooinoek ..	E. A. Skeen	366 330	£10.
571	Bovenop ..	Government	267 391	
603	Uitkomst ..	Government	207 587	
545	Goedegedacht ..	A. L. Kadruka	425 370	Last P.P. £25.
546	Schuinkloof ..	E. L. Marais	389 135	
1784	Platerand ..	Government	296 375	
611	Uitgebacht ..	Government	334 156	
1792	Wolverkop ..	Government	263 465	
652	Pisga	Government	460 423	
606	Honingkop ..	Government	528 238	
539	Benauwdheid ..	H. Lewis	473 86	£153 15s. 6d.
537	Tweekloof ..	Government	389 433	
610	Schietkloof ..	Government	177 241	
1794	De Diepte ..	E. L. Marais	473 431	Deed of Grant.
567	De Hoogte ..	Government	370 154	£12 10s.
569	Bergplaats ..	A. W. Baker	678 596	£110 6s. 9d.
524	IJzermijn ..	T. Kleinenberg	573 487	£50 Last P.P.
1607	Goudmijn ..	J. P. Hamman	741 21	£530.
572	Rooidraai ..	H. van Reenen	812 580	£290.
520	Schilpadnek ..	Government	473 277	
1867	Middlekop ..	Government	675 246	
613	De Beer	M. Lewis	693 160	£725.
614	Vaalboschlaagte	J. Stewart	1469 506	£1,610.
555	Naboom	Government	884 513	
1965	Rooibokbult ..	Government	554 191	

WARD SABIE, BARBERTON DISTRICT.

171	Pearrys Farm ..	H. C. C. Wolhuter	690 430	In terms of will.
193	Whitewaters ..	Government	971 11	
146	Burgers Hall ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	4772 361	£6,167 10s. W.O.P.
183	Peebles	Government	unsurveyed	
148	Logogotie ..	Government	unsurveyed	
102	Pretorius Kop ..	Transvaal Government ..	about 3000	Last p.p. £2,409 in 1904.
108	Joubert Hoop ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	6647 28	£10,000 W.O.P.
	Cunningham's Sugar Concessions, lapsed.			

WATERBERG DISTRICT.

900	Everywhere ..	Government	2136 87	£30.
1228	Abotspoort ..	Transvaal Estates and Development Co., Ltd.	2520 168	£19,200 W.O.P.
772	Harry Smith ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	2402 314	£50,000 W.O.P.
1020	St. Helena ..	Transvaal Estate and Development Co., Ltd. ..	2330 10	£19,000 W.O.P.
812	Otherworld ..	F. A. Willie	2090 152	Bequest.
1023	Arnhern	Transvaal Estate and Development Co., Ltd. ..	1708 —	£19,200 W.O.P.
364	Ballymore ..	A. M. Spirving	2215 194	£500.
1107	Pic van Teneriffe	The Batlaleron Tribe ..	1075 547	£800.
311	Paalkraal ..	S. J. J. van Vuuren and Others	3059 286	Inheritance.
1373	Ruigtepoort ..	Government	unsurveyed	
1592	Waterval ..	Millers and Cohen	3485 369	£464 13s. 4d.

WATERBERG DISTRICT.—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
1003	Knigtesloot ..	P. R. Schoeman	4279 236	£120.
977	Tambootielaagte	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	2965 363	£64,076 W.O.P.
339	Haakdoornlaagte	P. E. and W. P. Erasmus	4737 35	About £2,350.
2234	De Greus ..	Government	2567 332	
1190	Slagtboom ..	Government	2107 240	
1128	Bedwang ..	Government	1807 316	
939	Transaktie ..	C. W. F. Schultz	3055 387	£750 W.O.P.
1757	Deputten ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	3524 566	£64,076 W.O.P.
344	Haakdoornbult ..	George Makapan, Regent of Mosetta Tribe, half share.	4375 160	£4,000 W.O.P.
		J. P. Erasmus half share ..		Inheritance.
1696	Vogelstruispan ..	C. Maggs and Minister of Native Affairs, in trust for Bakgatla Tribe.	3709 120	Natives paid £4,637 2s. 6d.
1722	Welgelegen ..	Transvaal Estate and Development Co., Ltd. ..	1995 223	£3,000 W.O.P.
1697	Uitval	F. A. Strijdom and Others..	1563 270	Inheritance.
952	Zwartboom ..	B. Rheinhold & Co. ..	1842 337	
2097	Doorndraai ..	O. Watkins, Chairman of British Wesleyan Methodist Conference.	1461 496	£100 in 1896.
1463	Syferkuil ..	F. A. Botha and Others ..	4415 575	Donation.
1698	Rhenostervlei ..	F. A. Strydom and Others ..	3331 475	Inheritance.
1734	Haakdoornkraal	N. Motaung and Others ..	3498 256	
1440	Rietfontein ..	M. Horvitch	2148 193	£1,686 1s. 10d.
1640	Bultongfontein ..	J. M. Wilks (minor) ..	2746 2	£1,373.
1033	Tweefontein ..	C. W. F. Schultz and Government.	2585 176	Schultz's portion £1,332 18s. W.O.P.
2077	Taaiboschlaagte..	Oceana Consolidated Co. ..	2274 54	£50,000 W.O.P.
2285	Volop	Government	1842 546	
1989	Gewenscht ..	United African Lands Ltd...	1915 16	
2284	Kuilen	Government	1878 251	
2283	Madras	Government	1446 99	
2066	Charlottsdale ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co,, Ltd.	1675 219	£73,381 W.O.P.
1489	Kalkfontein ..	C. P. van der Walt (Partition half share).	2004 154	
		Albert H. Browning ..		£1,628 9s. 0d.

WARD ELANDSRIVER, PRETORIA DISTRICT.

285	Waterkloof ..	P. P. Roets	2110 64	Partition last p.p. £300
562	Bloompoort ..	H. M. Prinsloo and Others..	6803 14	Taken over.
9	Outspanning ..	C. J. Potgieter and Others..	6288 92	Portions at different values.
563	Witpenkloof ..	J. N. Visagie and Others ..	2374 545	Portions at different values.
225	Elandsdoorn, eastern portion, extent 1,000 morgen, lately purchased by natives.	Mothlamiana, Mathabathe and Others, and F. D. van Alphen and S. P. T. Malan.	1000	Donatiòn. £3,284. £3,482.

WARD POTGIETER, WATERBERG DISTRICT (OPEN AREA).

1333	Dorstland ..	Government	unsurveyed	
1334	Stirum	Government	unsurveyed	
1536	Lumburg ..	Government	2249 93	
1710	Nord Holland ..	W. G. and A. W. Baker ..	1434 388	£108.
1519	Luxenburg ..	Government	2090 22	
1709	Zuid Holland ..	W. G. and A. W. Baker ..	2535 572	

LYDENBURG DISTRICT.

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
371	Glenlyden ..	E. A. Renni	4876 480	Bequest.
594	Saligue	A. M. Kirkcaldy	4000 — (about).	£300.
546	Brooklyn ..	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	3385 455	£10,000 W.O.P.
359	Heilbron	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	4075 49	£10,000 W.O.P.
182	Craigieburn ..	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	4469 201	£10,000 W.O.P.
183	Arthur's Seat ..	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	3639 485	£10,000 W.O.P.
668	Rooiboklaagte ..	B. T. Bourke	4394 213	£100.
667	Buffelshoek ..	Lydenburg Minerals Exploration Co., Ltd.	3901 290	£2,000 W.O.P.
364	Welgevonden ..	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	2929 71	£10,000.
365	Wales	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	2497 99	£10,000.
360	Casteel	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	2808 166	£10,000.
247	Champagne ..	Government	3900 526	
256	Dingleydale ..	C. T. Rabie	..	£2,000 W.O.P.
		H. Lewis	3943 450	£4,000 W.O.P.
363	Vooruitzicht ..	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	2852 372	£10,000 W.O.P.
395	Zoeknog	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	2517 256	£10,000 W.O.P.
357	Violet Bank ..	Transvaal Estates & Development Co., Ltd.	3328 531	£10,000 W.O.P.
248	Orinoco	H. Lewin and Others ..	3749 134	£4,000 W.O.P.
267	Newforest ..	C. T. Rabie and H. Lewin ..	3738 144	£2,000 W.O.P. £4,000 W.O.P.
276	Rolle	Government	3865 490	
362	Onverwacht ..	Transvaal Estates	3741 207	£50,000 W.O.P.
361	London	Transvaal Estates	3863 255	£50,000 W.O.P.
249	Dwarsloop ..	J. Beretta	3364 485	£4,200 W.O.P.
275	Arthurston ..	Government	4253 189	
260	Merrypebblestream	Government	4638 414	
293	Dehoutbosch ..	Government	1621 175	
766	Versailles ..	W. Lawrence	2397 263	£2,397.
534	Ramanas ..	E. E. Wade	2426 210	Bequest.
726	Wales	W. H. and E. J. Pratt ..	1964 180	Bequest.
250	Maviljan ..	Government	3618 128	
277	Xanthia	Government	4414 51	
264	Agincourt ..	Government	4788 193	
1388	Jobskop	W. Lawrence	2202 486	£2,202 16s. 2d.
521	Hebron	G. P. C. Barclay and Others	2973 449	£3,500.
533	Vanderlands Wilgeboom.	Transvaal Lands and Mines Proprietary Syndicate, Ltd.	2580 309 (about).	£5,544.
801	Doornlaagte ..	S.A. Lands and Exploration Co., Ltd.	2614 284	About £1,778.
194	Beeste Kraal ..	Portion Union Government ..	2410 198	
251	Injaka	Government	3207 517	
259	Excelsior	Government	4144 481	
274	Croquet Lawn ..	Government	3821 14	
265	Eveagh	Government	3558 327	
523	Waterhoutboom	Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Ltd.	2798 507	
531	Roodewal ..	Transvaal Lands and Mines Proprietary Syndicate, Ltd.	3236 379	£5,544.

LYDENBURG DISTRICT—*Cont.*

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
522	Modderspruit ..	R. Burnham	3378 368	£2,871 16s. 0d.
266	Edinburgh ..	Government.	4198 282	
271	Dumfries.. ..	Government	3978 157	
261	Newington ..	Government	4393 83	
252	Waterval ..	E. L. Banger & Government	3060 231	
258	Lothian	Government	3655 57	
272	Cunningmoor ..	Government	1656 99	
263	Kildare	Government	3919 231	
727	Welkom	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	2599 174	£50,000 W.O.P.
725	Rietspruit ..	Frost Family	3003 498	£4,000 W.O.P.
392	Kleinfontein ..	M. E. de Villiers, J. A. Denyssen and Another.	3062 183	£450, one-third share each.
195	Diepdrift.. ..	W. T. Nourse	2551 598	£5,000.
253	Marite	E. L. Banger & Government	4693 237	
257	Alexandria ..	Government	4687 507	
262	Oakey	Government	4635 12	
273	Ronaldsey ..	Government	3263 —	
504	Frankfort ..	J. G. Grosskopf and Others..	2334 320	Inheritance.
374	Lunsklip ..	C. Maggs	1753 200	£3,287 10s. 0d.
530	Richmond ..	M. K. G. Liebnitz	2986 40	£600.
342	Albany	Transvaal Gold Mining Estates, Ltd.	954 109	Exchange.
47	Boschhoek ..	Government	2464 254	
46	Sandford ..	Government	4169 207	
50	Madras	Government	3748 512	
51	Calcutta	Government	4329 115	
60	Cork	Nederduitsche Gereformeerde of Herformde Gemeente Middleburg.	2351 596	Grant.
148	Maandagshoek ..	M. and J. C. Schoeman ..	4993 361	£750 W.O.P.
147	Mooihoek ..	Government	1826 399	
1498 141	Derdegelid ..	Government	3693 188	
775	Bothas Hoek ..	M. L. de Souza and Others (junior).	3735 458	£625.
110	Praktiseer ..	Government	Unsurveye'd	
636	Hendriks Plaats..	H. T. Boerman	3397 287	Grant.
684	Steelports Drift ..	C. J. J. Joubert	3929 271	£1,275.
330	Onverwacht ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	3664 174	£50,000 W.O.P.
571	Aapies Boomen ..	Sam Evans	3980 256	£2,100.
423	Doornbosch ..	Erasmus Family	4239 100	£3,125.
424	Winter Veldt ..	Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Co.	4505 300	£50,000 W.O.P.
137	Nooitverwacht ..	Government	1618 265	
687	Eerste Geluk ..	R. Schurink	2696 29	£1,500.
763	Het Fort ..	Kalmeyer & Hirschman and T. W. Beckett & Co.	2020 180	£365 W.O.P.
772	Goedverwachting	J. J. Louw and Another ..	3317 74	£1,010.
21	Corndale ..	Kalmeyer & Hirschman and T. W. Beckett & Co.	1723 54	£365 W.O.P.
570	Boschkoop ..	S. A. Webb	2208 572	£1,656.
49	Landsend ..	Kalmeyer & Hirschman and T. W. Beckett & Co.	1466 391	£365 W.O.P.
55	Mooimeisjesfontein	J. J. Coetzen and Another ..	3300 — (about).	£800.
1343	Steelpoorts Drift	Government	2868 29	
229	Aapies Boom ..	R. Buhrman and Another ..	4249 105	Taken over.

SCHEDULE OF AREAS RECOMMENDED AS NATIVE AREAS BY BEAUMONT COMMISSION, BUT NOT INCLUDED IN NATIVE OR OPEN AREAS RECOMMENDED BY EASTERN TRANSVAAL LOCAL COMMITTEE.

AREA 2.—WATERBERG DISTRICT, WARD POTGIETERSRUST.

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
2324	Macalacaskop ..	Government .. .. .. (Included in Valltyn Mokopaans Location Fence Bond. 10,447—£47 10s. 9d.	5032 215	

AREA 4.—PIETERSBURG DISTRICT, WARD GROOT SPELONKEN.

196	Leeuw Kraal ..	The Minister of Native Affairs in trust for Chief Masenyane and the Matok Tribe.	4164 537	£4,215.
1986	Matok	Government	1290 101	Reserved for Native Location.
194	De Kafersdrift ..	Government	3443 497	Exchange.
1832	Klipbok	Government	432 229	Reserved for Native Location.
1833	Uitkijk	Government	511 327	Reserved for Native Location.
114	De Gladde Klip Kop.	Government	2998 367	
1534	Ramagoeps Location.	Government	9117 187	
205	Matjesgoedfontein	Minister of Native Affairs in trust for Chief Madumi Ramakhopa and his Tribe, and Oceana Consolidated Co., Ltd.	1676 145	Partition.
1831	Biesjeslaagte ..	Government	861 150	Reserved for Native Location.
6	Ramapoet Spruit	Mamokutupi Madome Ramaghopa and Tribe (known as Ramagoeps).	714 42	£995 15s.

AREA NO. 5.—ZOUTPANSBERG.

Unsurveyed portion of Scrutton's Reserve.	—	143800	
Portion of Shingwedzi Reserve.	—	581400	
	Total	725200	

AREA 5.—PIETERSBURG DISTRICT, WARD KLEIN LETABA.

255	Legat Forest Area	Government	46 370	
	Portion of Shingwedzi Reserve.	—	608000	—
		Total	608046 370	

AREA 6.—PIETERSBURG DISTRICT, WARD LOW COUNTRY.

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
2559	Forest Reserve (Area 6).	Government	1835 572	
		Total	1835 572	

AREA NO. 7.—LYDENBURG DISTRICT, WARD OHRIGSTAD.

1425	Dublin	Government	1688 —	
1502	Calais	Government	2802 570	
163	Edinburgh ..	E. Burk, B. Burk, F. Alexander.	3341 202	£8,750 W.O.P.
164	Margate	E. Burk, B. Burk, F. Alexander.	3199 557	£8,750 W.O.P.
944	Dunstable ..	Transvaal Property and Investment Co., Ltd.	3302 170	£214,190 W.O.P., £79,999.
173	Portsmouth ..	E. and B. Birk, F. Alexander	3352 242	£8,750 W.O.P.
176	Liverpool ..	E. and B. Birk, F. Alexander	3080 310	£8,750 W.O.P.
165	Richmond ..	E. and B. Birk, F. Alexander	2630 547	£8,750 W.O.P.
1310	Jongmans Spruit	G. C. Moor	3113 5	£100.
184	Darby	E. and B. Birk and F. Alexander.	2876 160	£8,750 W.O.P.
190	Essex	E. and B. Birk and F. Alexander.	2680 220	£8,750 W.O.P.
179	Southampton ..	E. and B. Birk and F. Alexander.	2680 542	£8,750 W.O.P.
1032	Moriak	Wm. Mohlmann	2692 592	£250.
358	Chester	Transvaal Estates and Development Co., Ltd.	2929 138	£1,000 W.O.P.
167	Elandsfontein ..	Lydenburg Transvaal. Gold Exploration Co., Ltd.	6361 113	£12,000 W.O.P.
		Total	46733 4368	

AREA NO. 7.—MIDDLEBURG, DISTRICT, WARD SEKUKUNI.

230	Goedverwacht ..	O. Doya	1884 388	Donation.
253	Nooitverwacht ..	Half, F. R. Janse, V. Vuuren	1782 —	£175, Half.
261	Nooitgezeen ..	F. W. Armstrong	1911 589	£600.
271	Vogelenzang ..	G. G. Gordon (B. Maclare) ..	2637 590	£400.
294	De Paal	Rose Davis (B. Solomon), Charles Maggs.	2000 194	£1,200.
351	Eenkantaan ..	A. W. Baker	2546 595	£636 15s.
299	Derdemaal ..	R. J. Janse, V. Vuuren ..	1837 85	£360.
307	Vogelstruiskoppie	Estate of late G. W. S. van Niekerk.	3516 —	Bequest taken over.
276	Gaataan	L. de J. Faurie, W. Steenkamp	2516 —	£500.
		Total	20629 2441	

AREA No. 7.—WATERBERG DISTRICT, WARD POTGIETERSRUST.

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent. Mor. Sq.Rds.	Purchase Price.
1976	Bellevue	Government	1748 381	£30.
1954	Rooiboschfontein	Transvaal Land and Exploration Co., Ltd.	1629 475	£50,000 W.O.P.
1858	Eerstegeluk ..	Government	1947 388	
1862	Doornpoort ..	A. D. Bergtheil Family ..	1758 478	Inheritance.
1774	Klipheuvel ..	B. C. Bezuidenhout ..	1698 49	£825.
1950	Reitvalley ..	S. P. M. Mulder	1698 259	£800.
1823	Groot Klip ..	African Lands, Ltd. ..	1303 225	£2,000.
1949	Van der Merwe's Kraal.	Government, Remainder Extent.	1936 —	Outspan conditions.
		Total	13697 —	

AREA 16.—PRETORIA DISTRICT, WARD CROCODILE RIVER.

518	Zaagkuildrift ..	Viljoen Strijden and Du Preez Families.	3124 50	Inheritance. Donation.
213	Sterkwater ..	Du Preez Family	3431 —	Donation, £1288.

AREA 17.—PRETORIA DISTRICT, WARD ELANDSRIVER.

248	Marble Hall ..	G. J. C. Bauckes and Govt.	3884 —	£246.
415	Vaalfontein ..	half G. J. Engelbrecht, C. J. Malan. J. E. Engelbrecht	2232½ —	£205.
565	Nooitgedacht ..	half M. L. du Plessis and Others.	1911 —	£955.
564	Oude Stad van Meleeuw.	half Rhodesia and Union farms and Mines Ltd. ..	1757 —	£875.
250	Uitzoek	half Piet Kruger	2286 —	£100.
273	Kleinwaterfontein	Henderson Consolidation Corporation.	2295 —	£7500 W.O.P.
307	Koekput ..	Henderson Consolidated Corporation.	4568 —	£7500 W.O.P.
222	Allemansdrift ..	Myers and Erasmus Families	6000 —	£395. Bequest and Inheritance.
363	Vaalbank ..	M. C. Opperman, P. A. Opperman.	3408 —	
511	Riekertslaagte ..	Erasmus and Opperman Families.	1430 —	Partition.
			29771 —	

AREA 17.—MIDDELBURG DISTRICT, WARD SELONS RIVER.

566	Rhenosterkop ..	J. Nicholson, B. Reinhold ..	4000 — unsurveyed	£125 Donations.
509	Reitkloof, Kamapeelos Location	Government Berliner Missioners Geselschaft.	5409 575	£165.
61	Kalkfontein ..	Steenkamp Family, Bester and J. Kitson.	7902 1049	£1,036 5s. 6d. one portion Inheritance.
118	Elandsplaats ..	Lucas Tribe and another ..	2859 248	Legacy.
66	Kameldoorn ..	Henderson Consolidated and four others.	5864 —	£76,308 W.O.P.
194	Goedgedacht .. Leeuwkraal ..	C. Sachs, E. Lazarus	3886 — ..	Inheritance, £508 8s.
			29320 morgen	

AREA 18.—BARBERTON DISTRICT, WARD KOMATI.

No.	Name of Farm.	Owner.	Extent.	Purchase Price.
			Mor. Sq.Rds.	
	Cunninghams concession.	Unsurveyed portion of Kaap Block Cunninghams concession. Lapsed.	8000 — approximately	
		Total	8000 — approximately.	
	Unsurveyed.			

AREA 19.—BARBERTON DISTRICT, WARD KOMATI.

103	Te Kort	Government	3541 —	
104	Keerom	Government	1512 —	
3	Dadelspruit ..	R. Fliesboch	2767 —	£822 15s. 7d.
105	Rengatslaagte ..	Government	2770 —	
4	Richtershoek ..	K. and A. Herold	4208 —	£6000.
106	Vlaakbult ..	Government	3631 —	
6	Vyberboom ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	2239 —	£6,000 W.O.P.
7	Landtedraai ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	3601 —	£6,000 W.O.P.
111	Vlaakplaats ..	Government	2018 —	
11	Bufflesspruit ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	2955 —	£6,000 W.O.P.
10	Driekoppies ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	4960 —	£6,000 W.O.P.
8	Langeloop ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	2841 —	£6,000 W.O.P.
13	Schoemansdall ..	T. M. Kirk and Government	5193 —	Grant.
12	Middleplaats ..	Selig and Franklin	5611 —	£2,250.
9	Boschfontein ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	3740 —	£3,750 W.O.P.
15	Jeppesreef ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	2952 —	£3,750 W.O.P.
16	Schaulzendel ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	3659 —	£3,750 W.O.P.
17	Jeppesrust ..	Montrose Exploration Co., Ltd.	3635 —	£3,750 W.O.P.
			61822 —	
	Unsurveyed ..	.. ..	151902 —	
		Total	213724 —	

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